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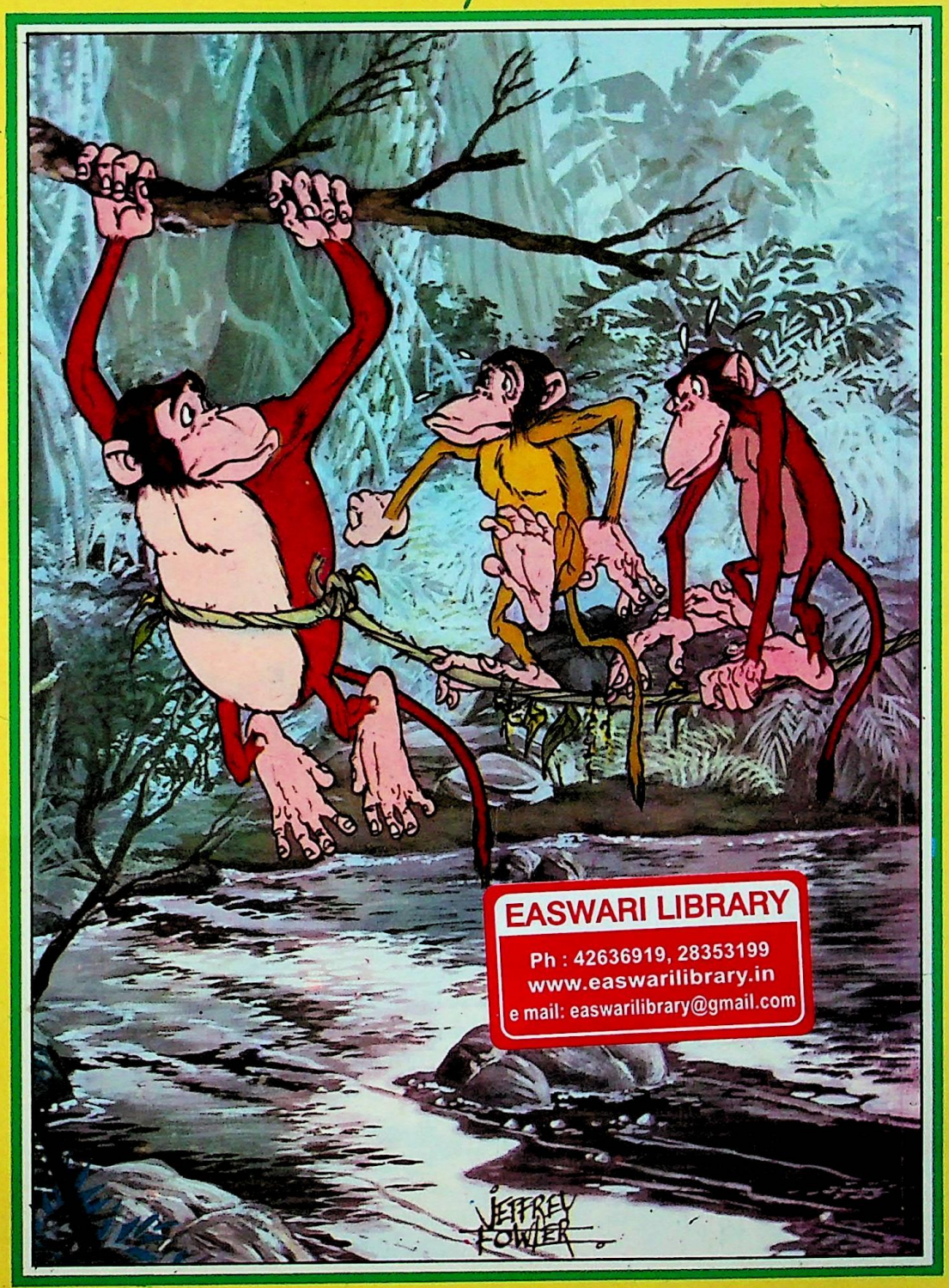
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

Vol. 543 Rs 25

Jataka Tales

Monkey Stories



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Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India

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Jataka Tales
Monkey Stories

The Jatakas on which the present title is based is a collection of five hundred and fifty stories, included in the Pali canon. They are tales in which the life of Bodhisatva in his previous births is narrated. The Bodhisatva is one, who by performing virtuous, kind and intelligent acts, aspires to become a Buddha.

Jataka tales are based on folklore, legends and ballads of ancient India. We cannot assign a definite date to the Jataka stories. Taking into account archaeological and literary evidence it seems likely that they were compiled in the period, third century B.C. to fifth century A.D. They give us invaluable information about ancient Indian civilization, culture and philosophy.

The Jataka stories have been very popular in the Buddhist world. These stories have been translated almost in all the languages of the Buddhist countries such as Chinese, Tibetan, Sinhalese, Siamese, Burmese, Japanese and also in many modern European languages. These stories have encouraged painting and sculpture in ancient India and other Buddhist countries. Sanchi, Bharhut, Amaravati and Ajanta in India, Borobudur in Java, Pegan in Burma and Sukhodaya in Thailand bear testimony to the popularity of these tales.

The present book is a collection of a few Jataka stories in which the Bodhisatva is born as a monkey. We hope, in the words of Prof. Rhys Davids that "we may still turn with appreciation to the ancient book of the Buddhist Jataka tales as a priceless record of the childhood of our race".

AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.
Over 78 million copies sold so far.

Written by : *Meena Talim*

Illustrated by: Jeffrey Fowler

Editor: Anant Pai

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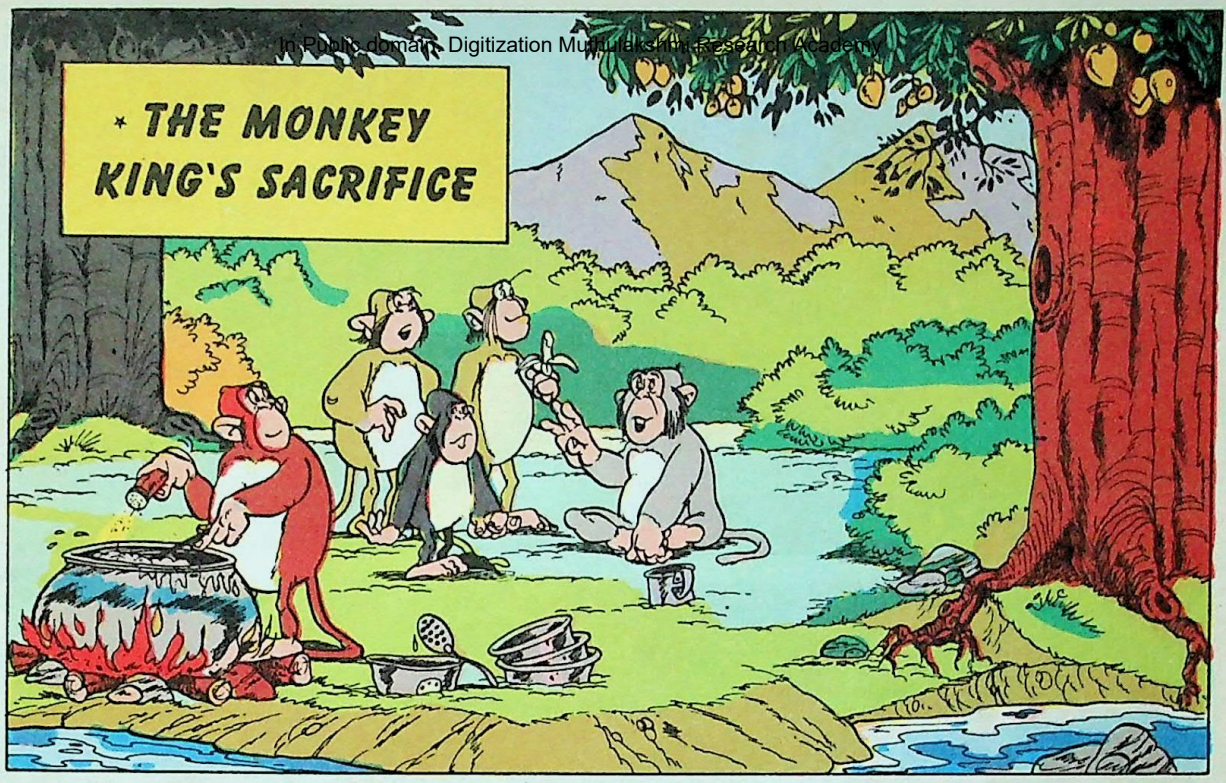
* THE MONKEY KING'S SACRIFICE



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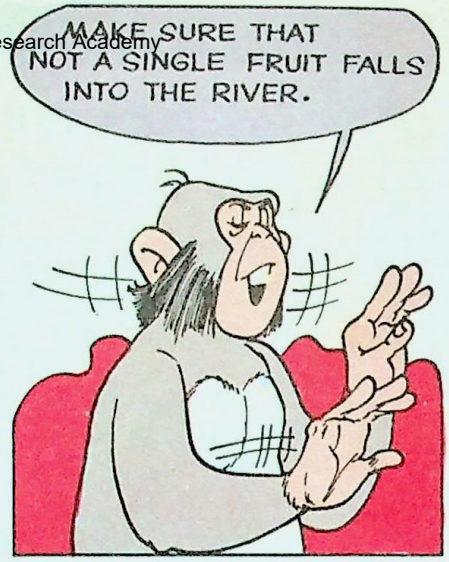

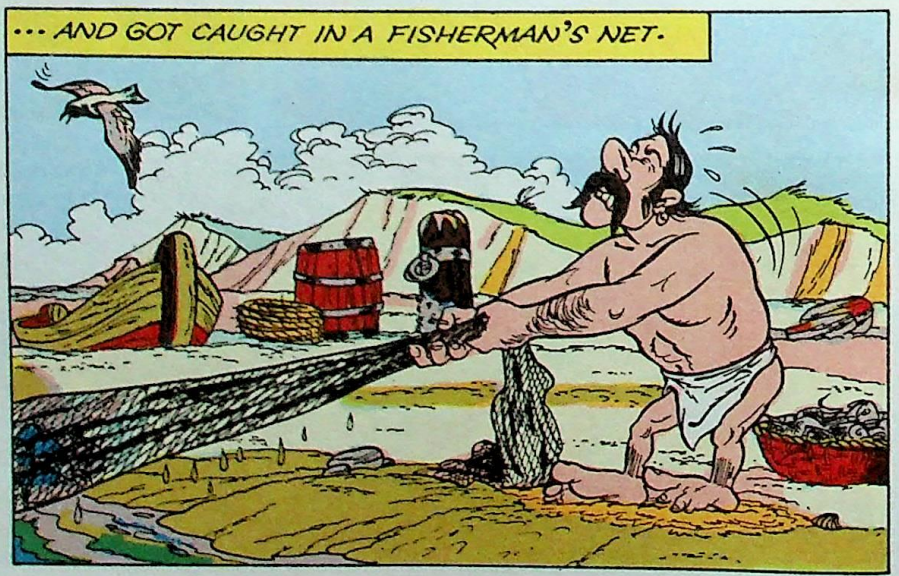

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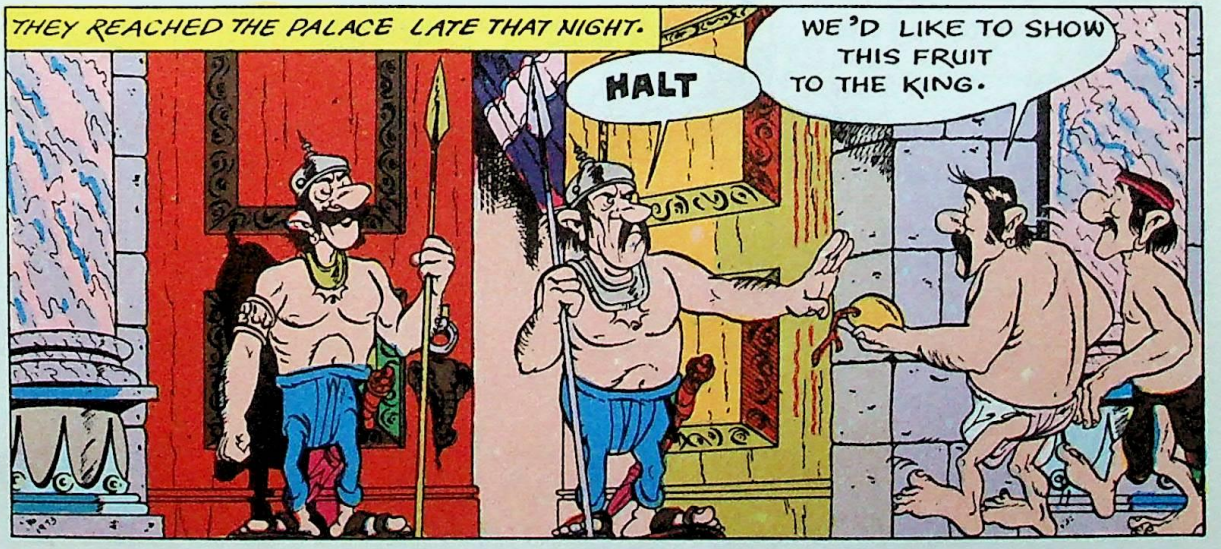

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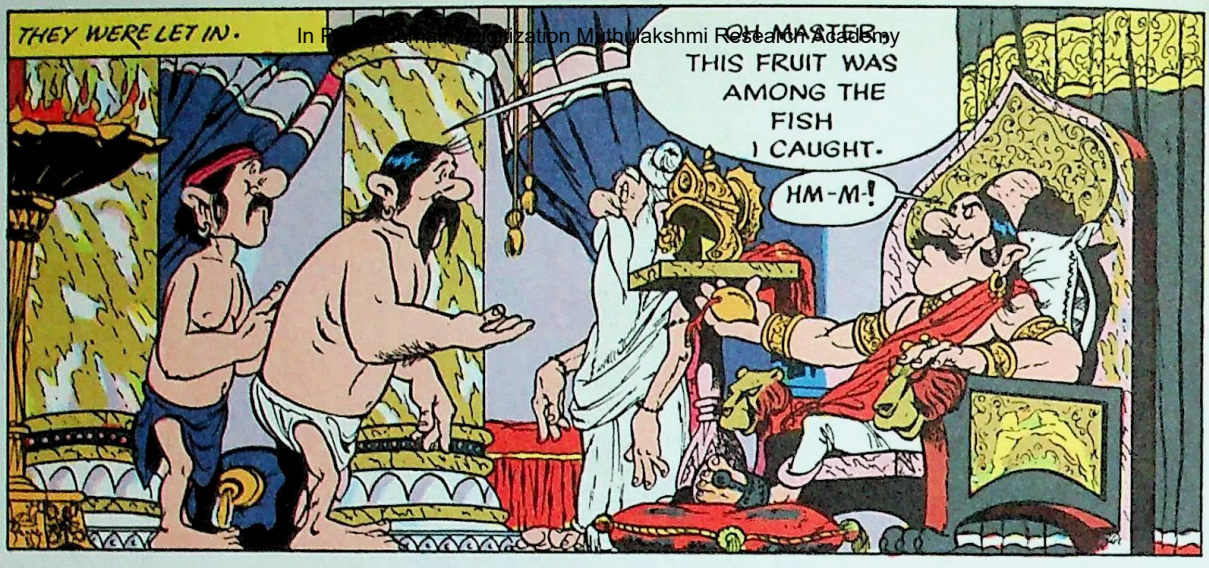

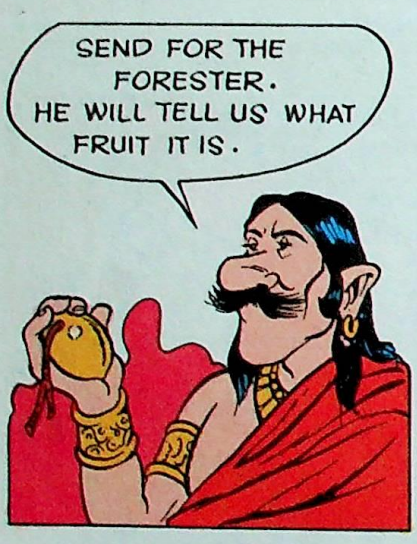

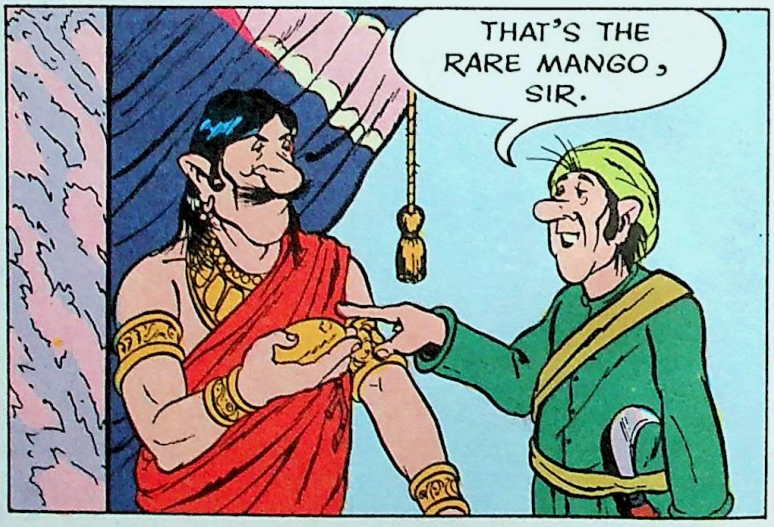

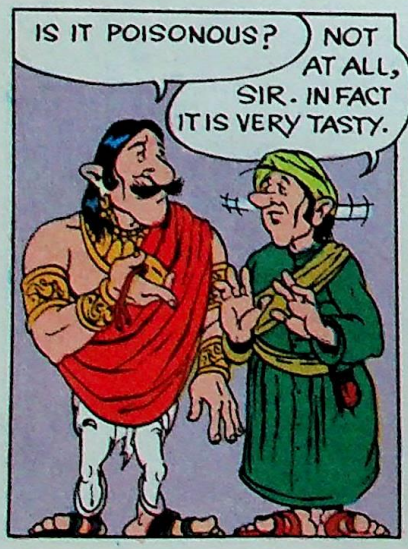

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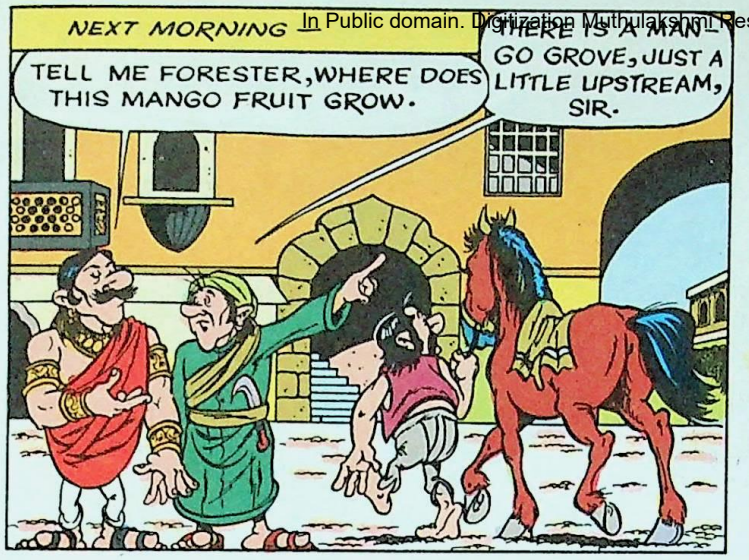

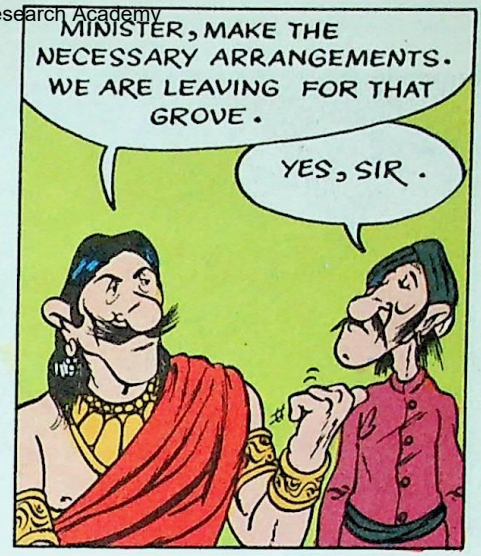

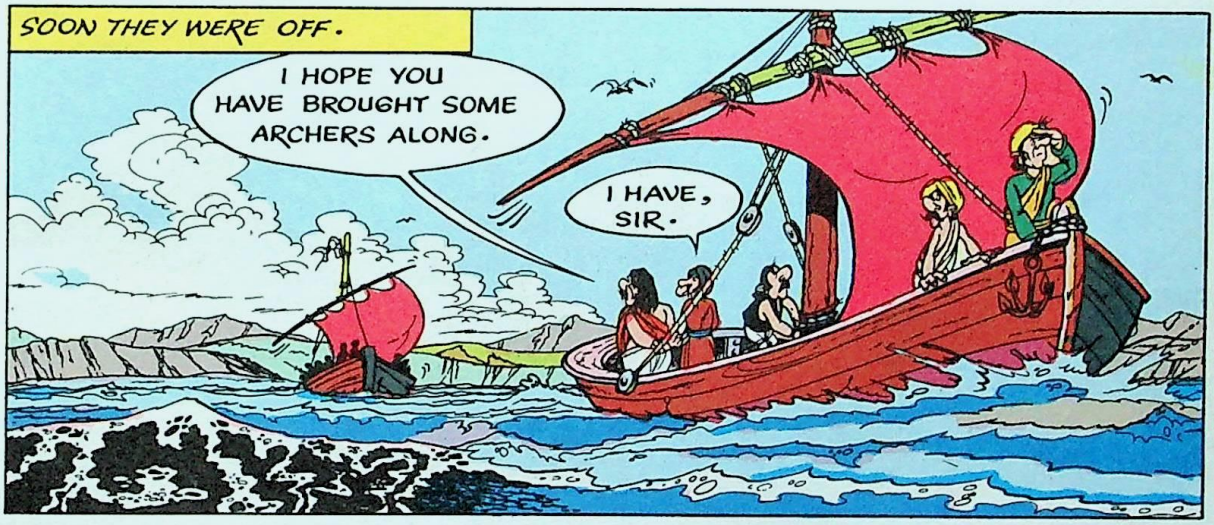

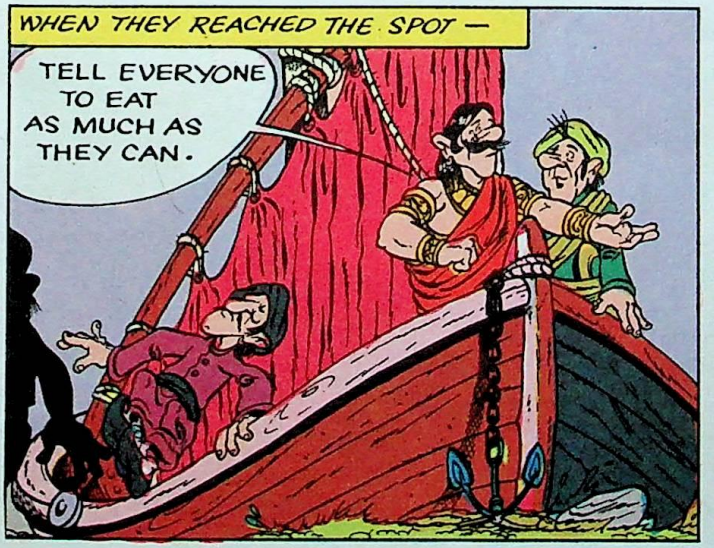

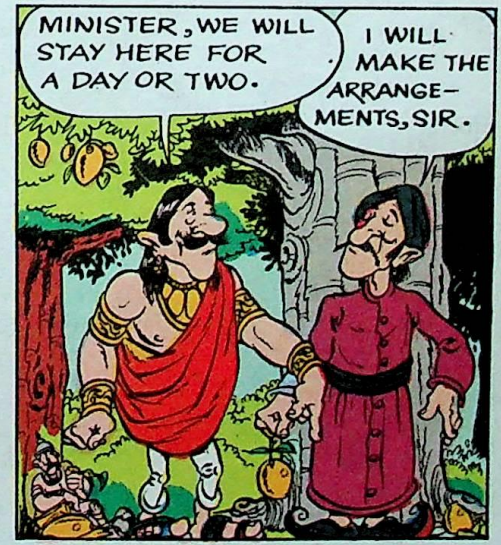

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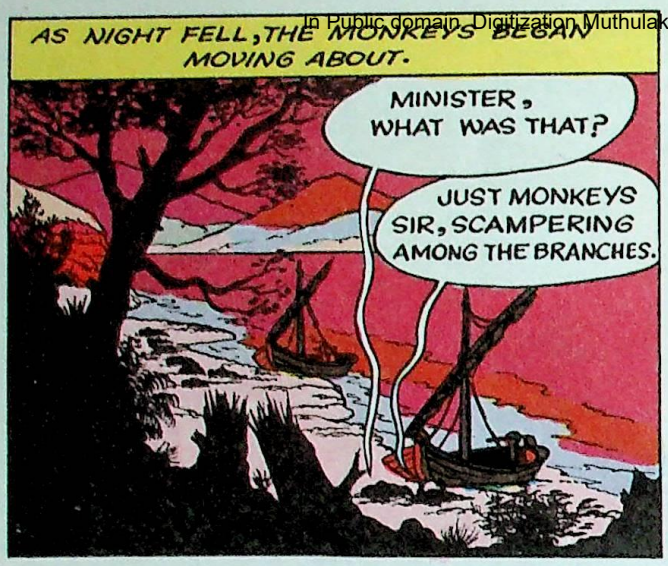

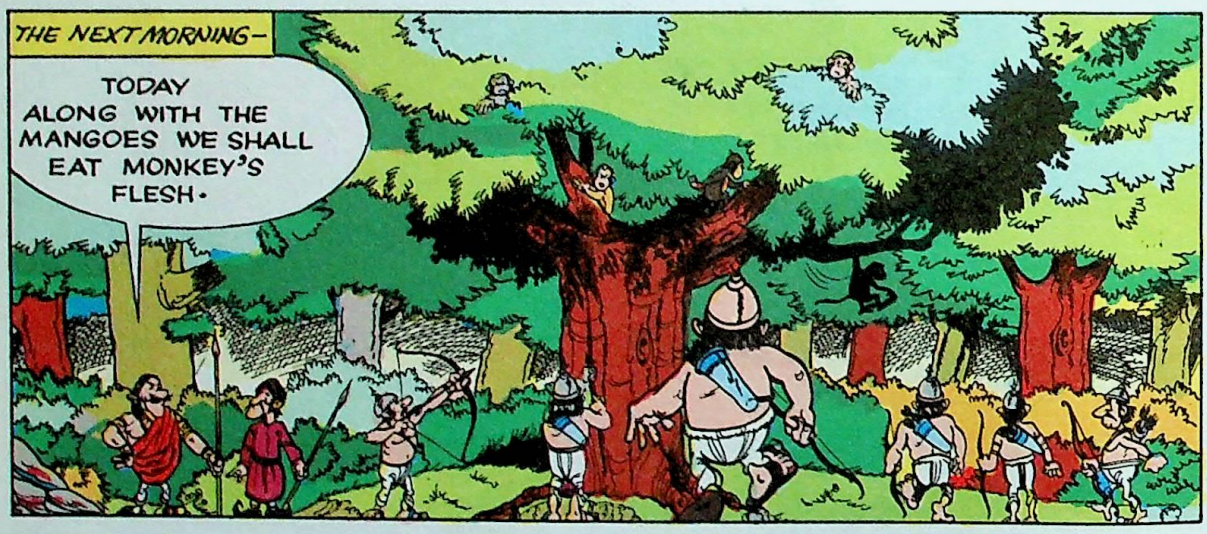

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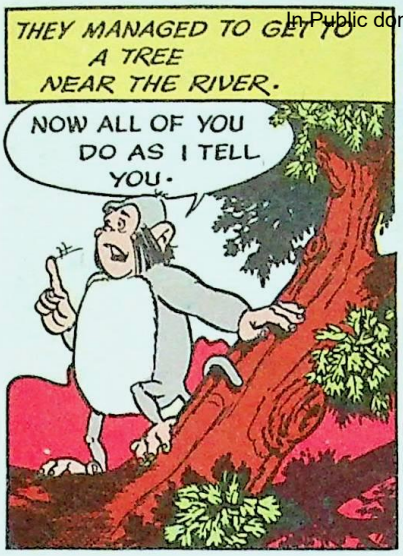

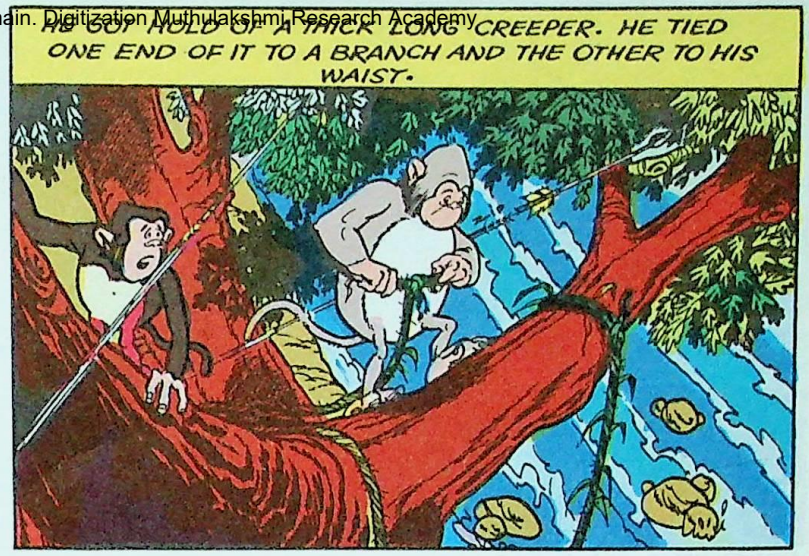

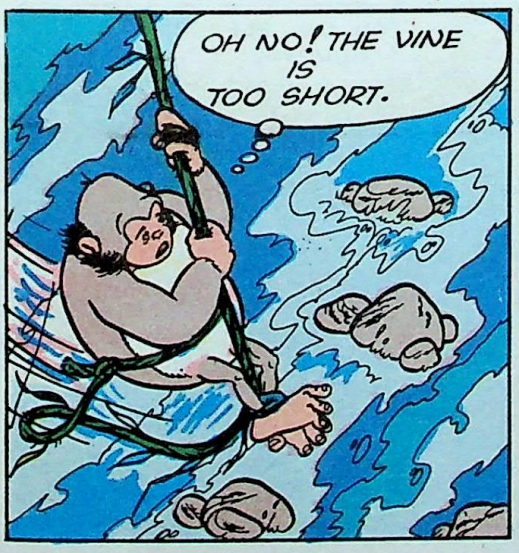

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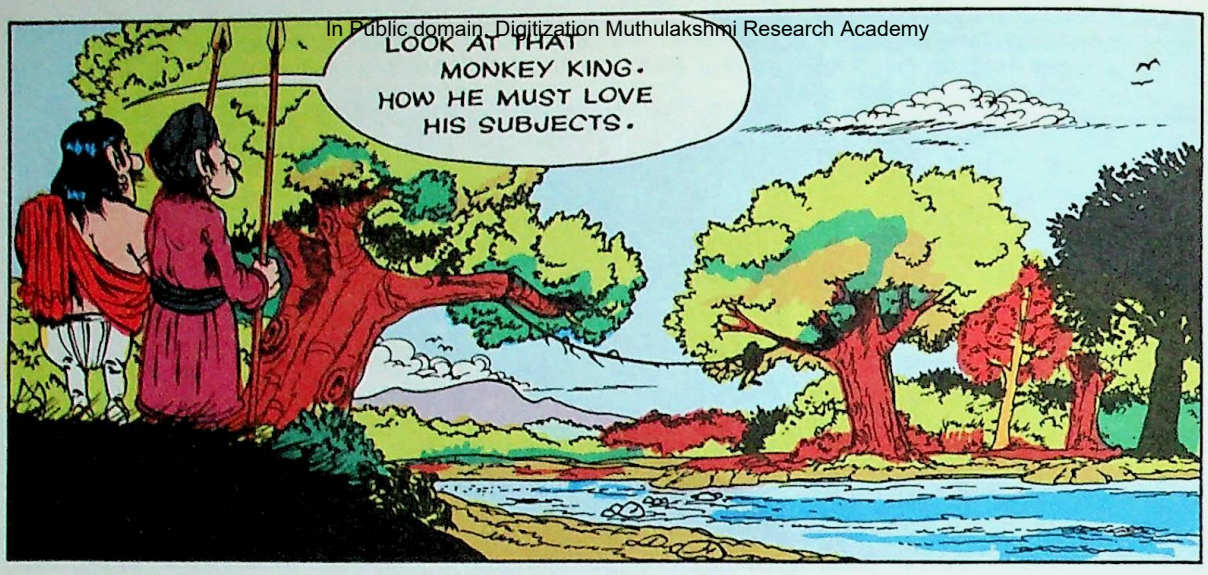

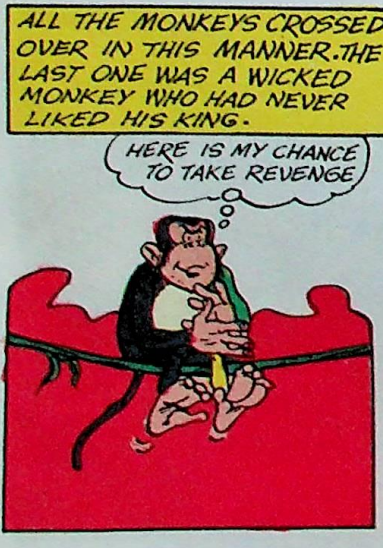

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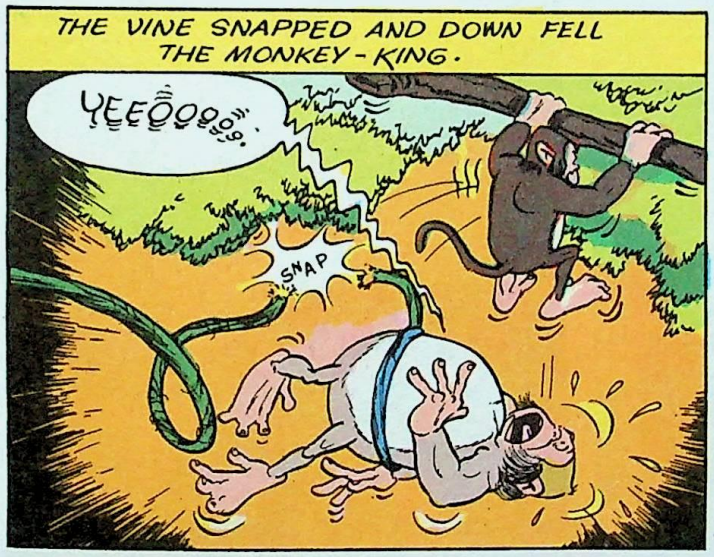

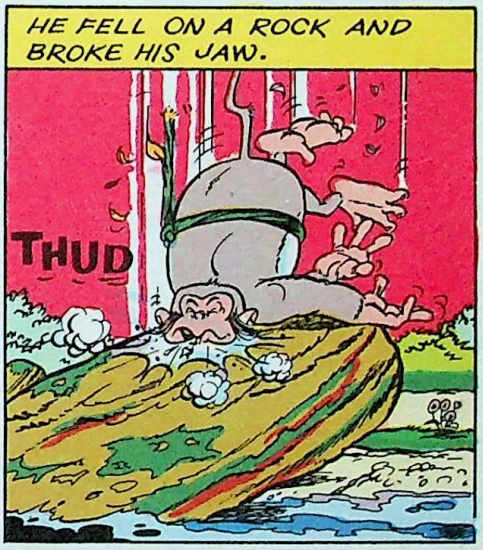

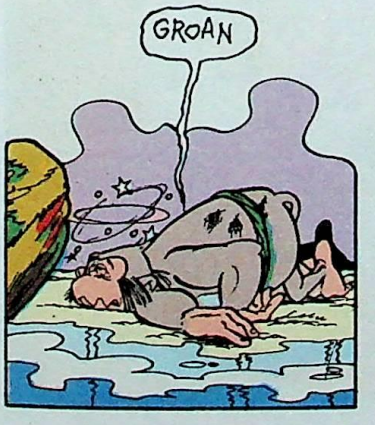

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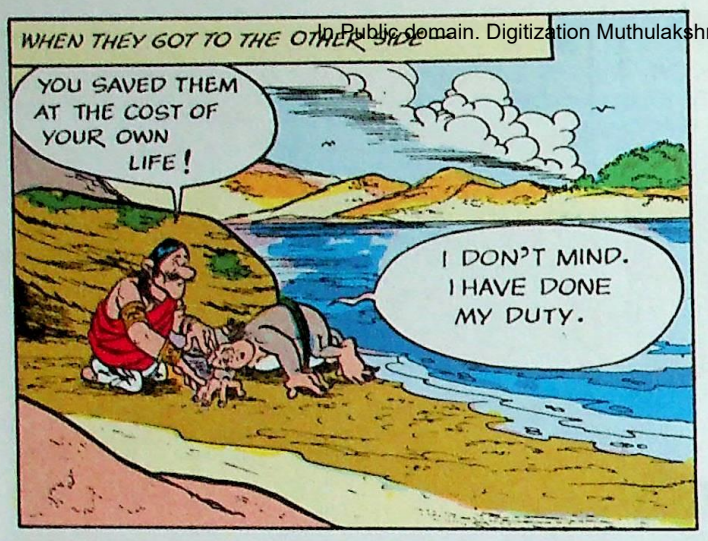

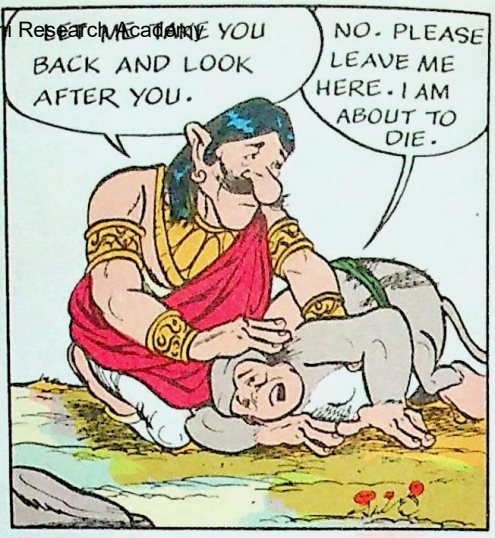

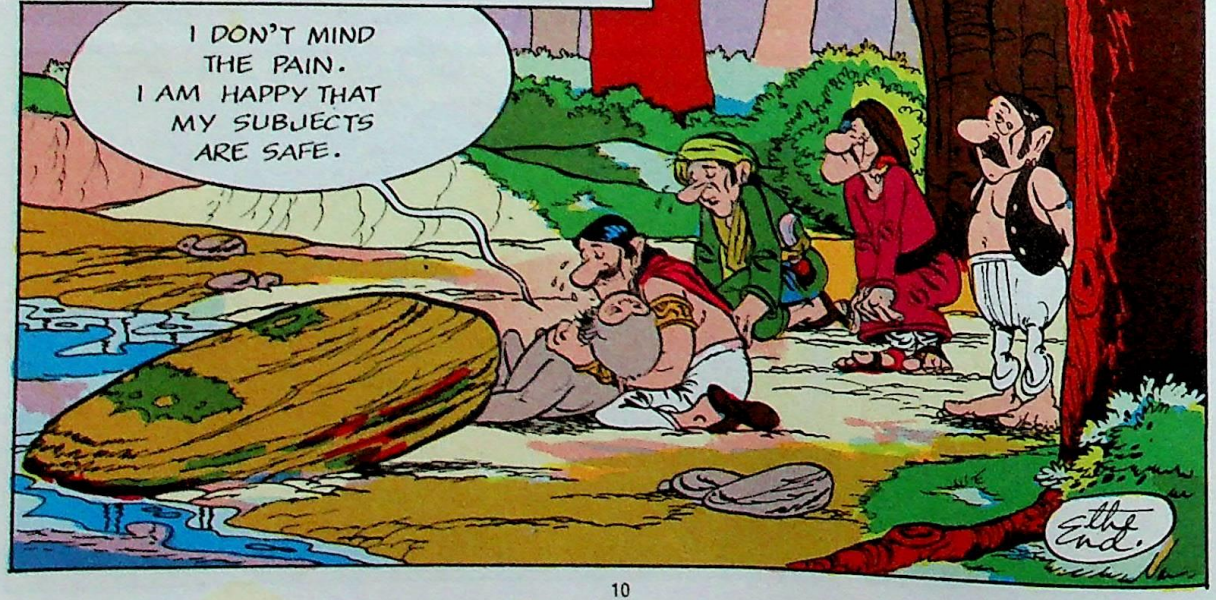

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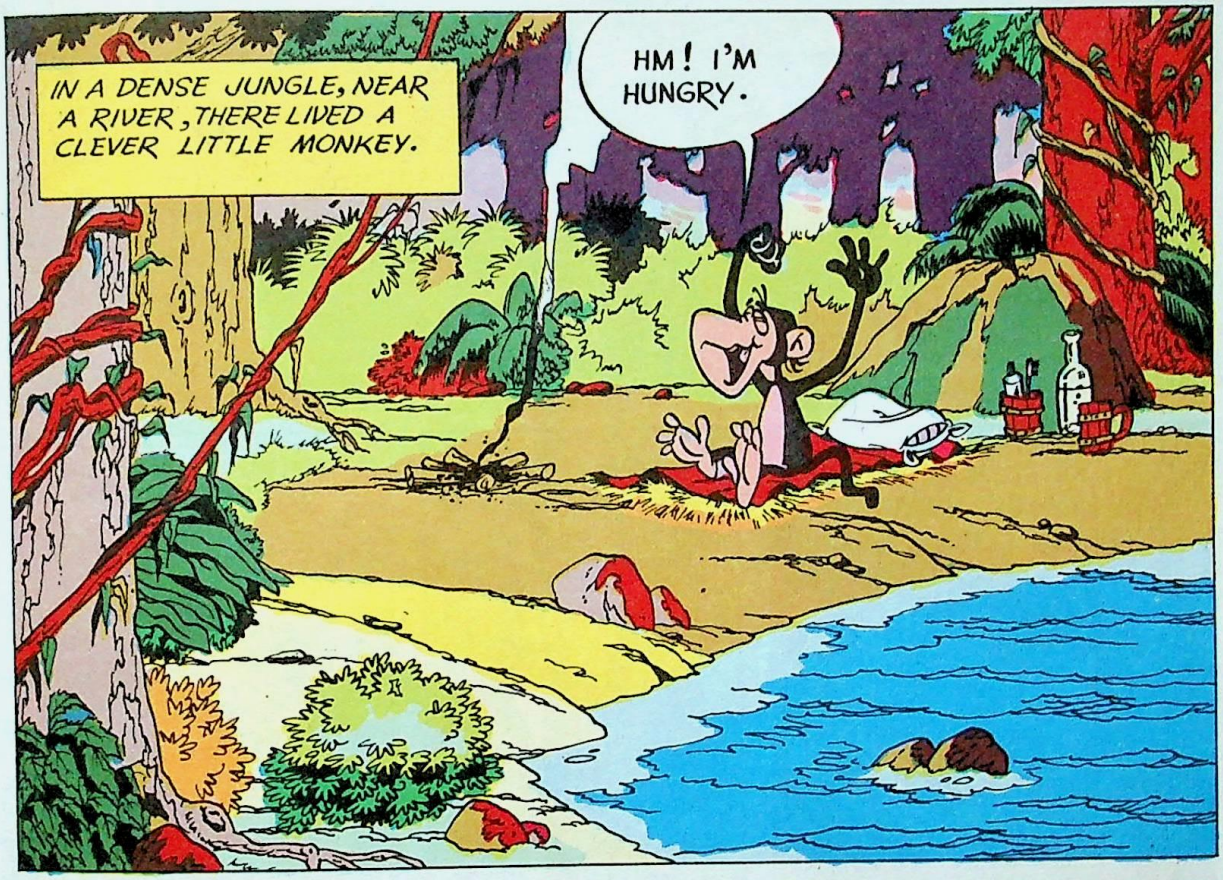
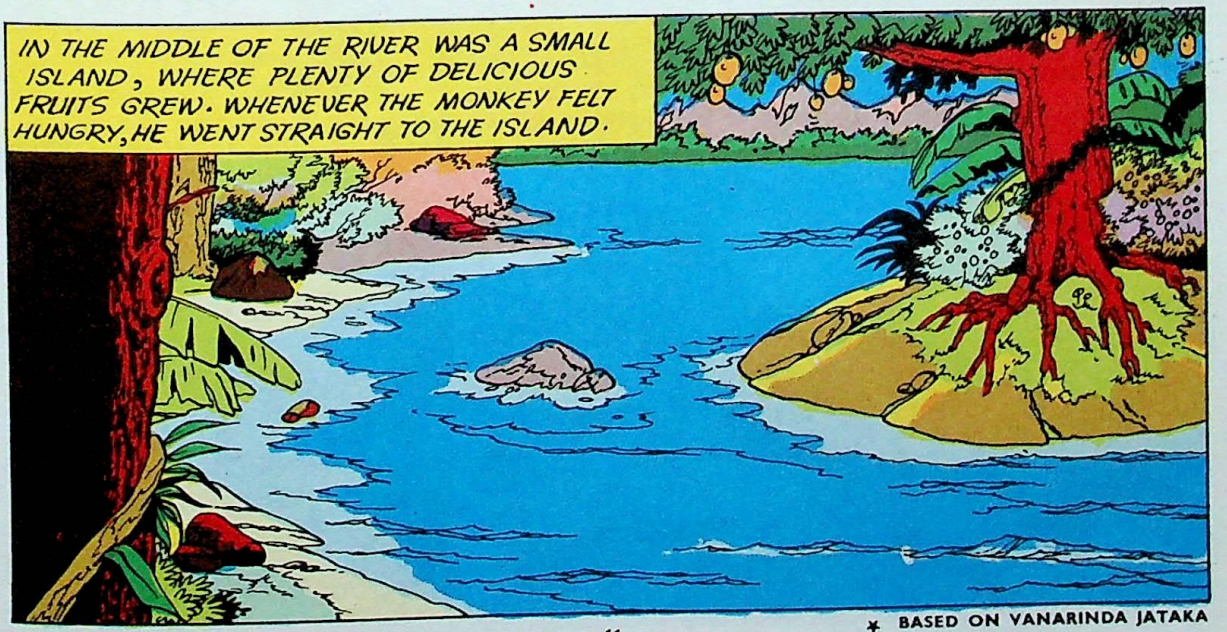
*THE STUPID CROCODILE AND THE MONKEY





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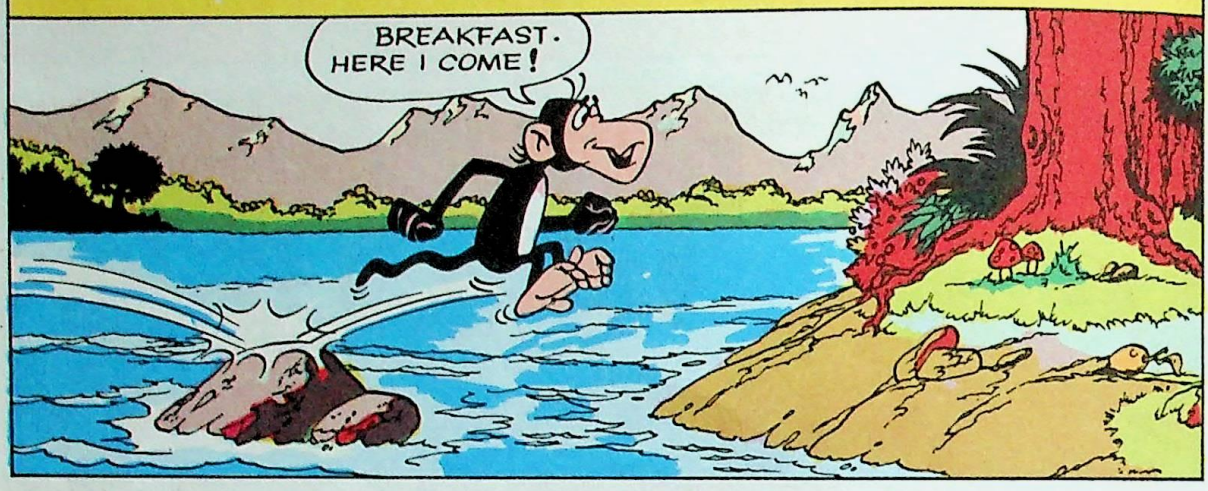
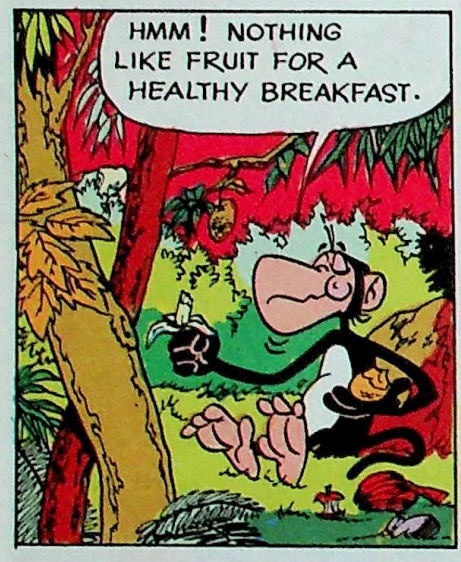
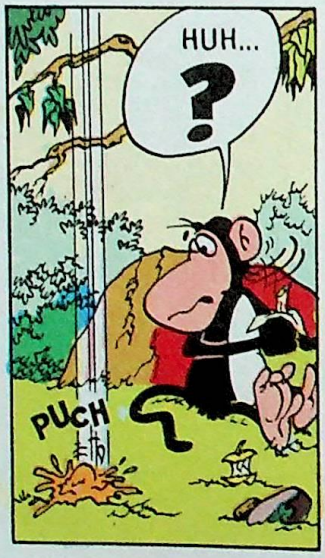
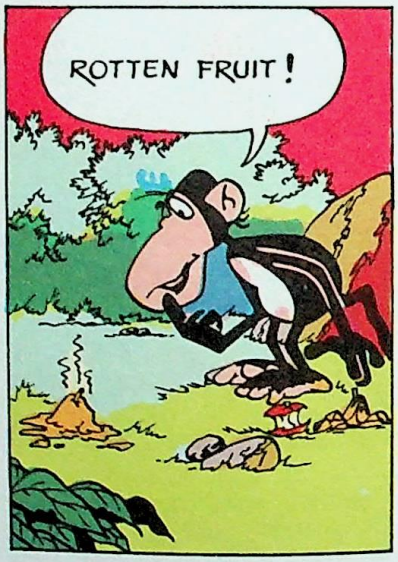
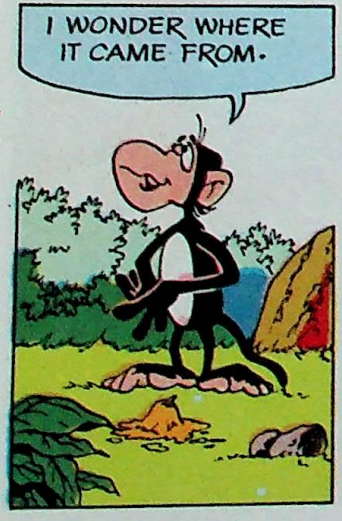
HE WOULD JUMP FROM THE BANK, ONTO A ROCK IN THE RIVER AND THEN TO THE SMALL ISLAND.

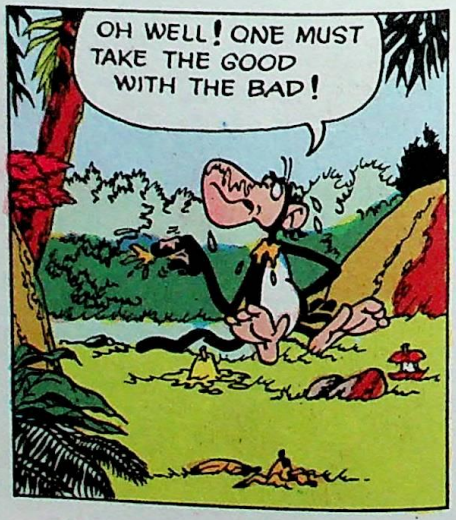












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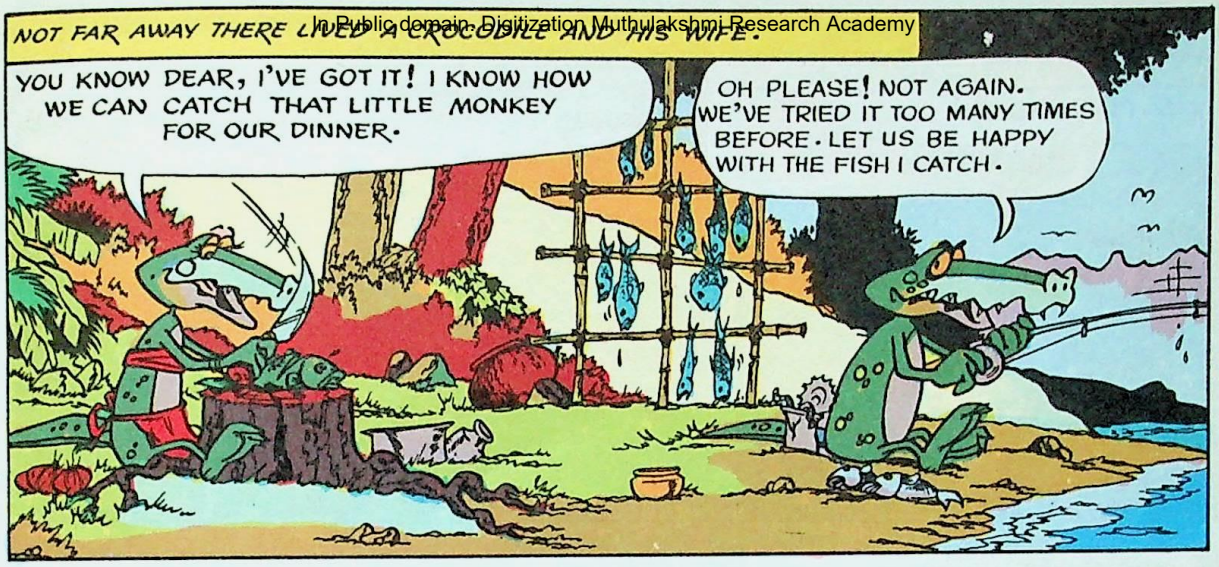

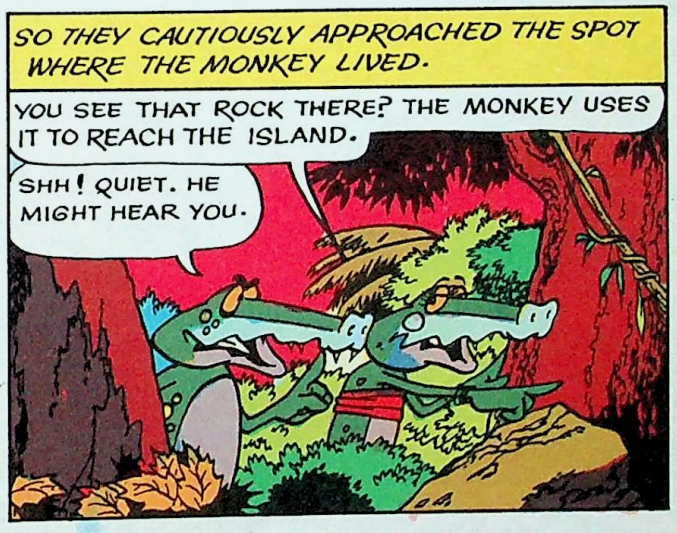

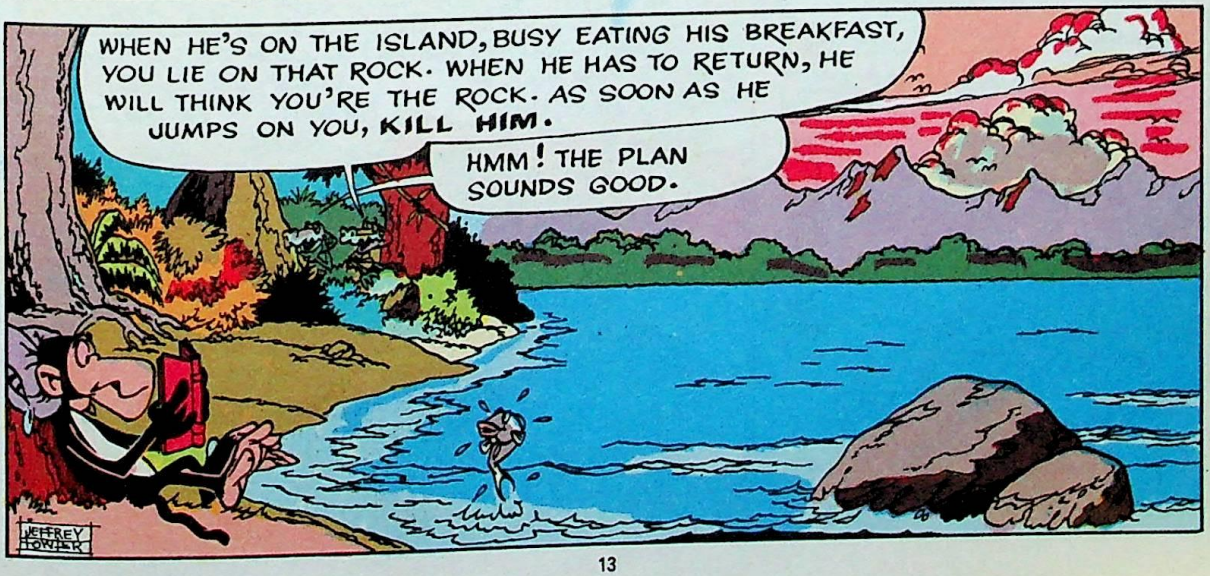

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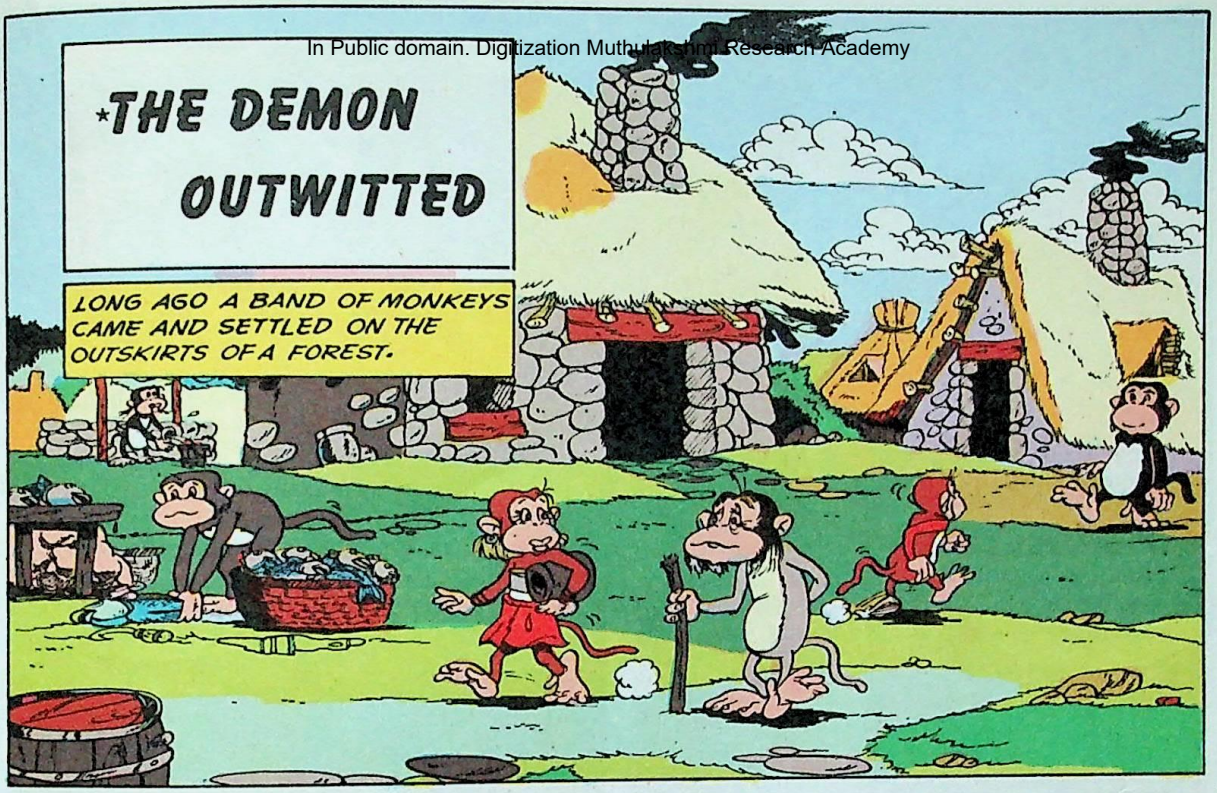
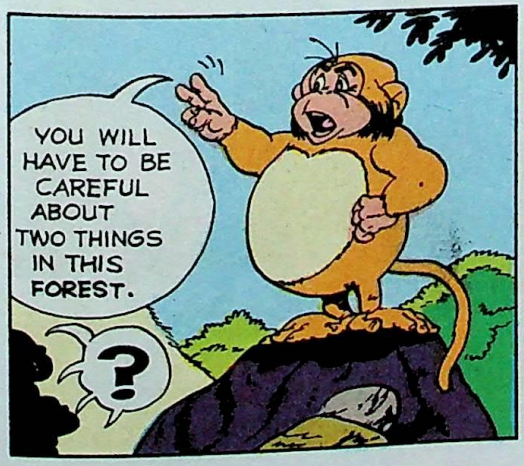
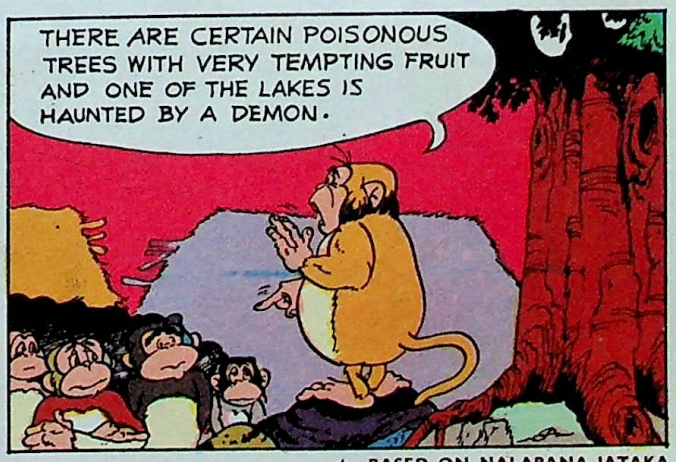
*THE DEMON OUTWITTED







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YOU MUST NOT DRINK WATER OR EAT ANY FRUIT WITHOUT ASKING ME.

ONE DAY WHILE WALKING FOR FIREWOOD, THE MONKEYS WANDERED DEEP INTO THE FOREST.

MOTHER, I'M THIRSTY.

AH! THERE IS A LAKE CLOSE BY.

WAIT! DON'T GO NEAR THE WATER.

DON'T YOU REMEMBER OUR LEADER'S WARNING?

OH DEAR! I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN. THANK YOU FOR REMINDING ME.

ALL RIGHT! LET US WAIT TILL OUR LEADER COMES.

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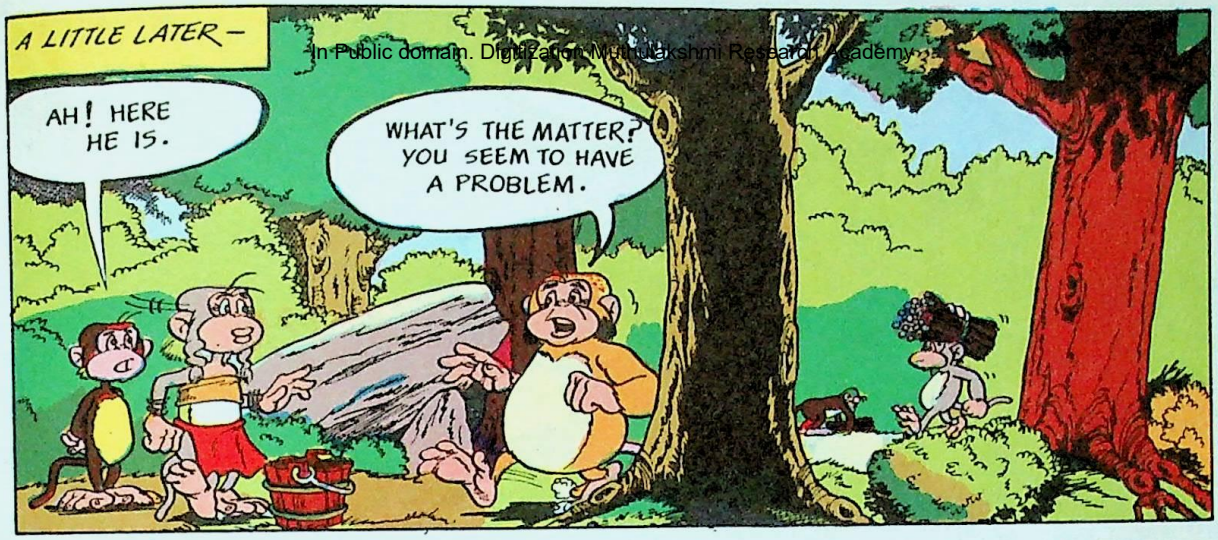

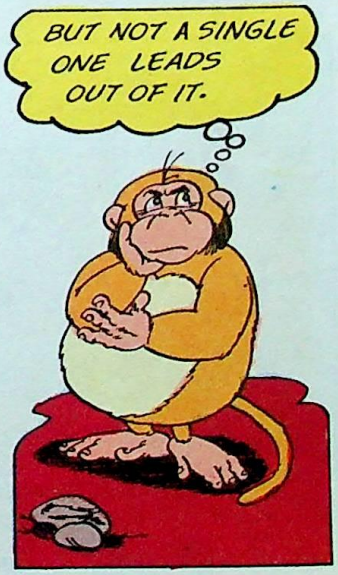

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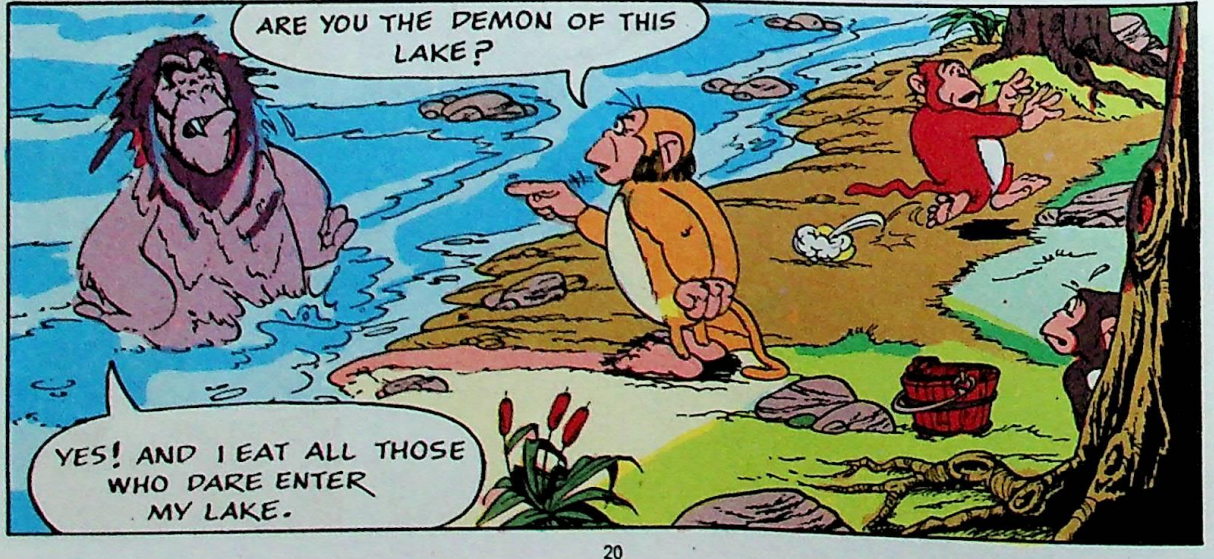

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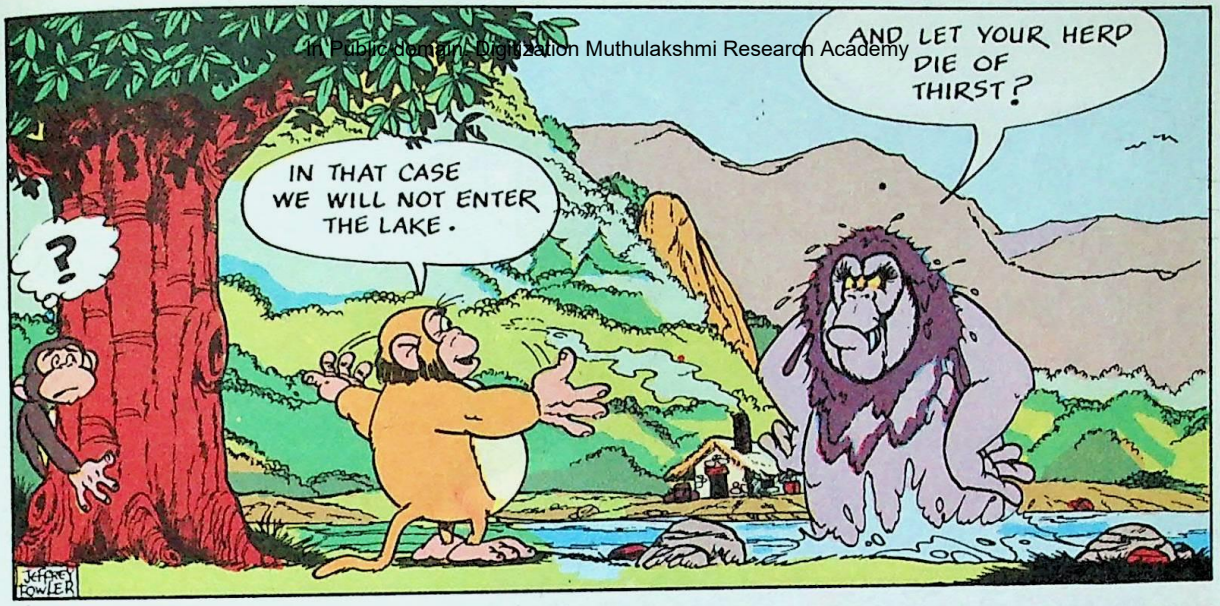

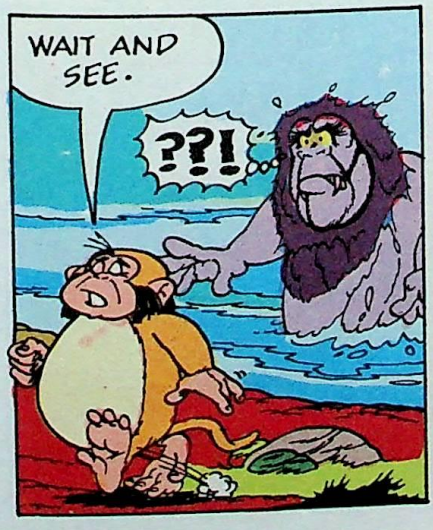

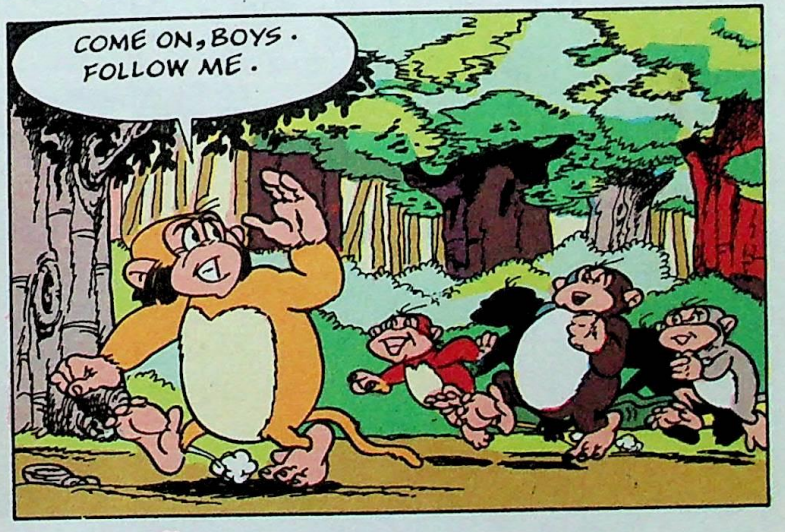

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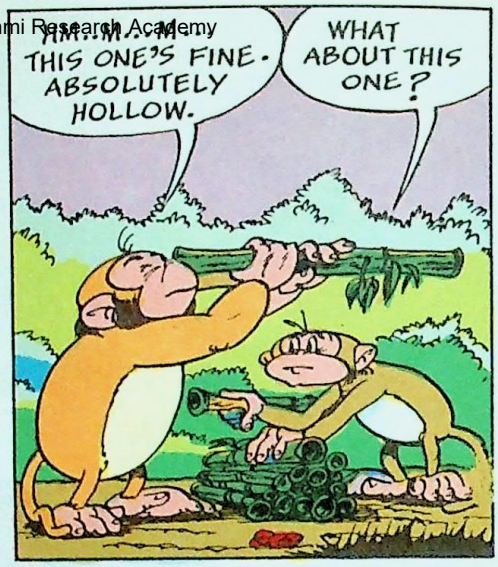

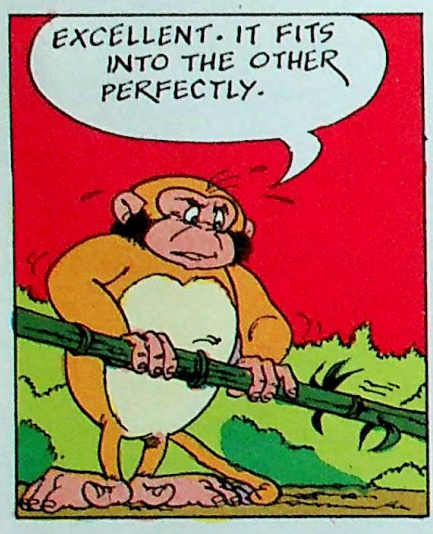

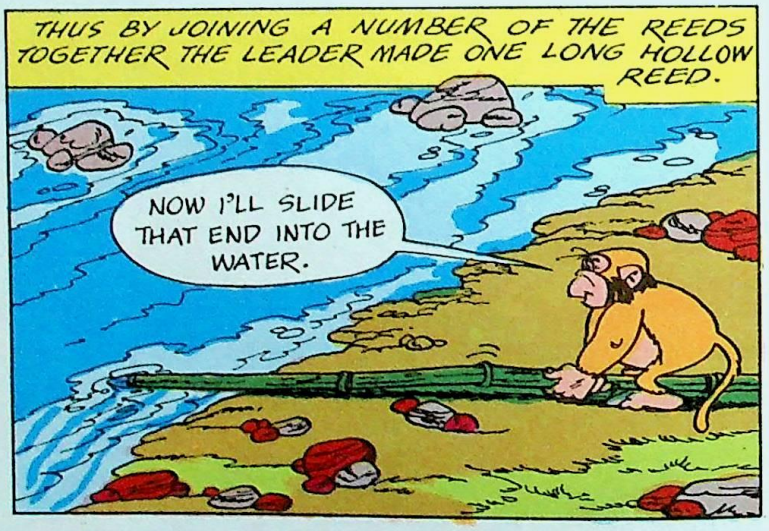

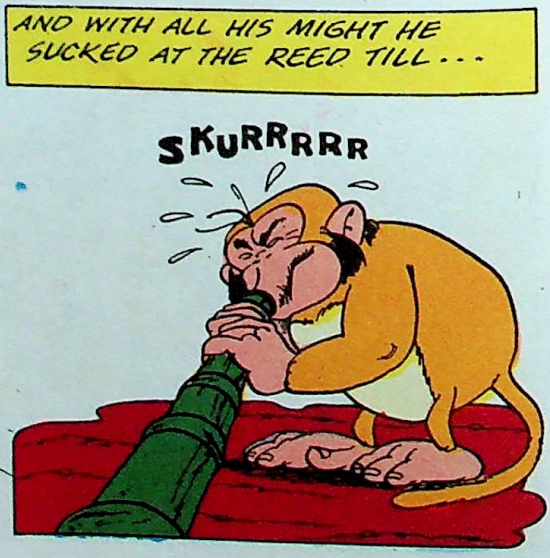

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...THE WATER GUSHED OUT IN A THICK STREAM.

SPLAT

WATER! DELICIOUS WATER! AND ALL FOR US.

FULL OF RAGE, THE OUTWITTED DEMON STOMPED BACK INTO THE LAKE.

GRRRR!

HA HA HA HO HO HEE HO HA HA

AND THE MONKEYS THEIR THIRST WELL QUENCHED, RETURNED HOME.

the End

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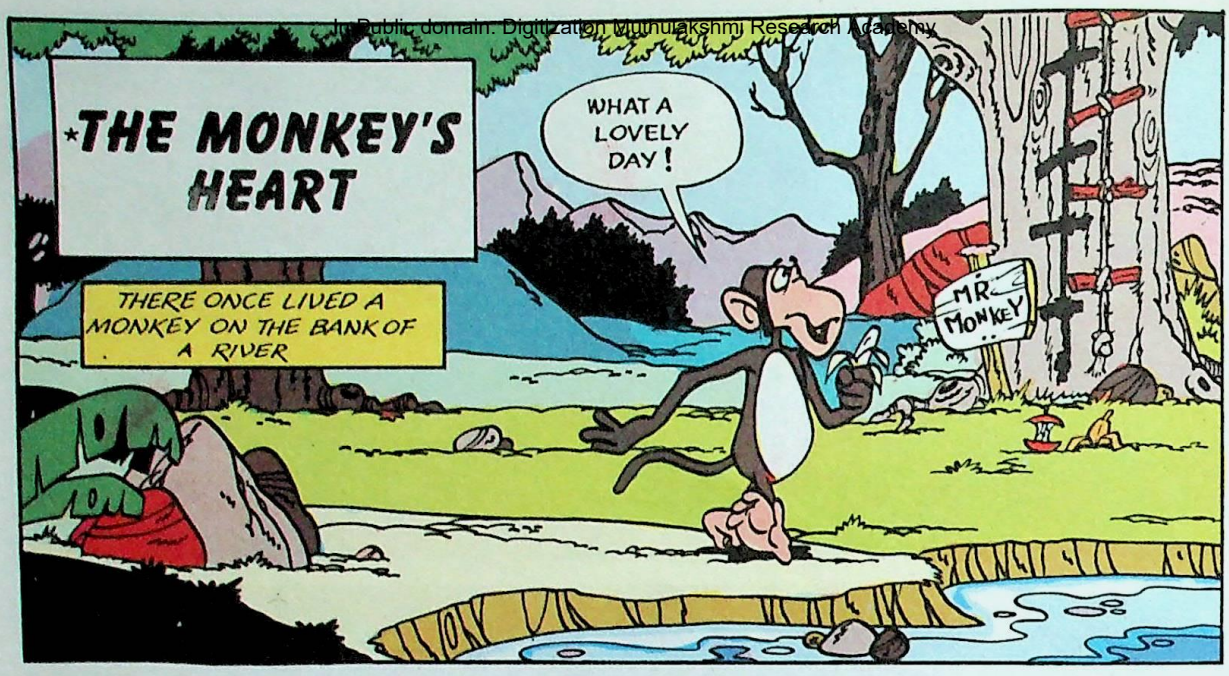

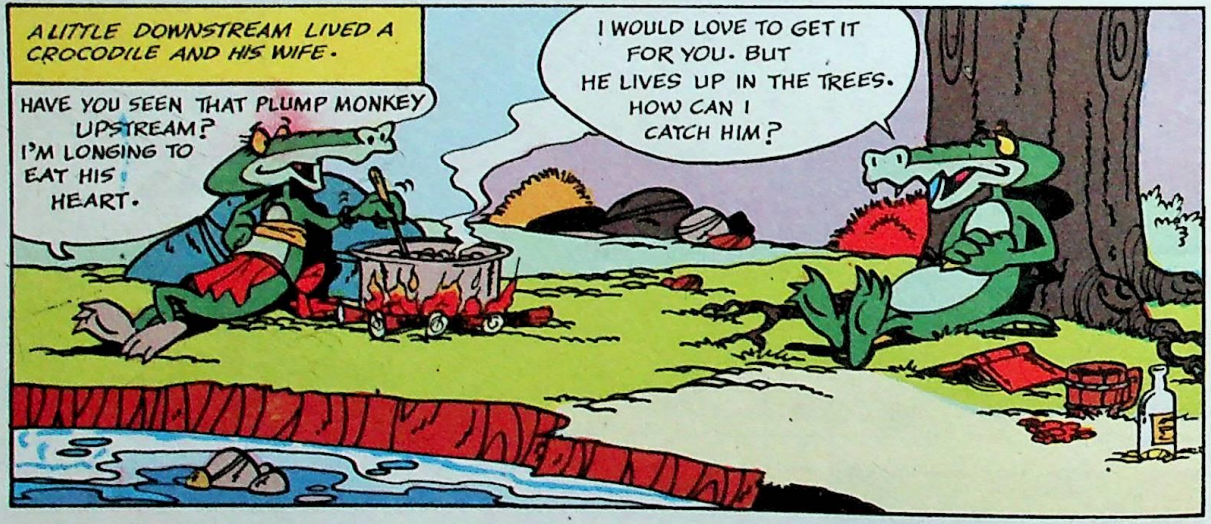

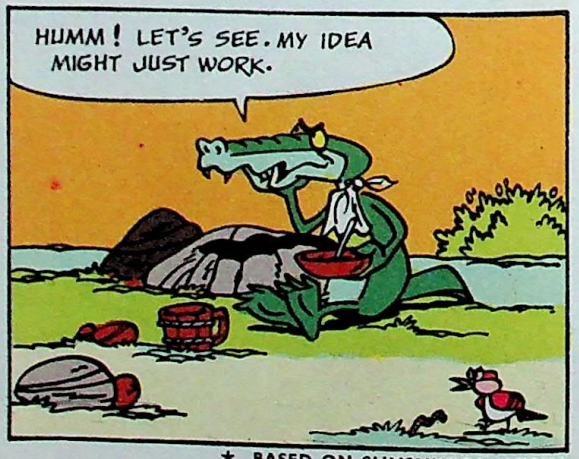

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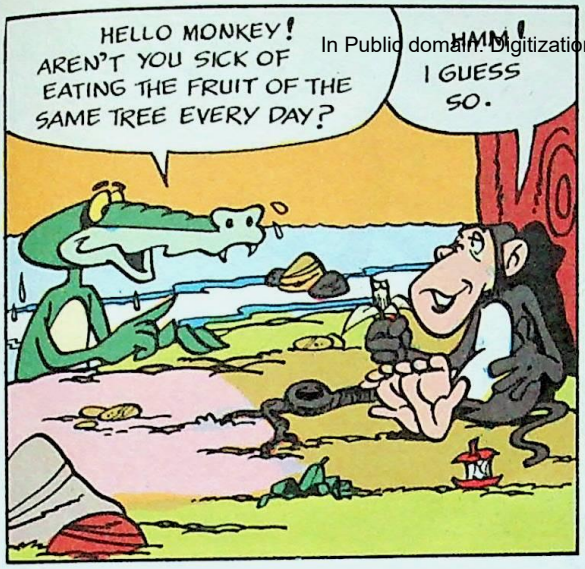

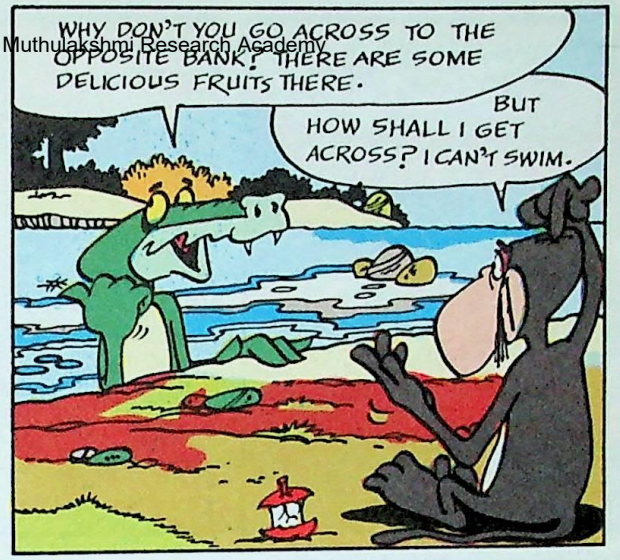

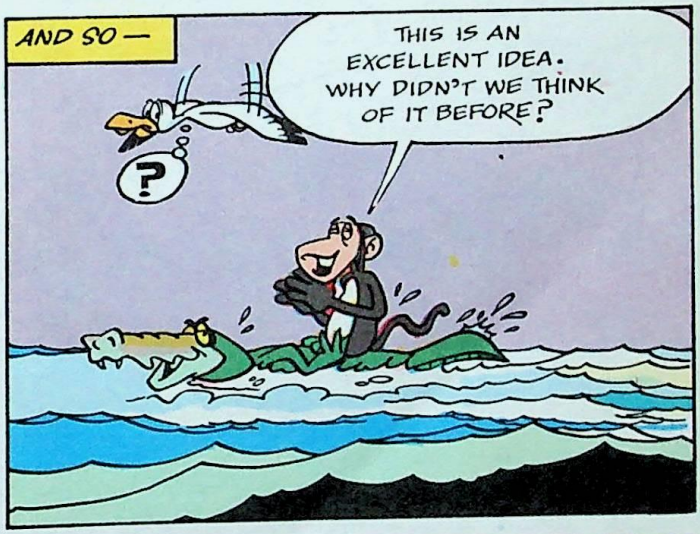

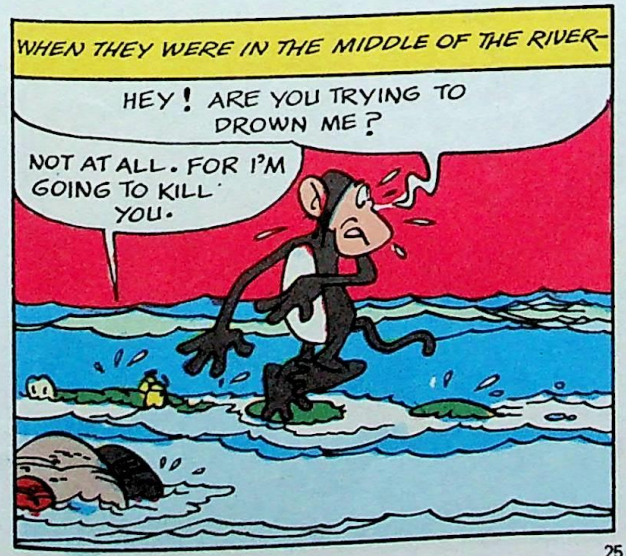

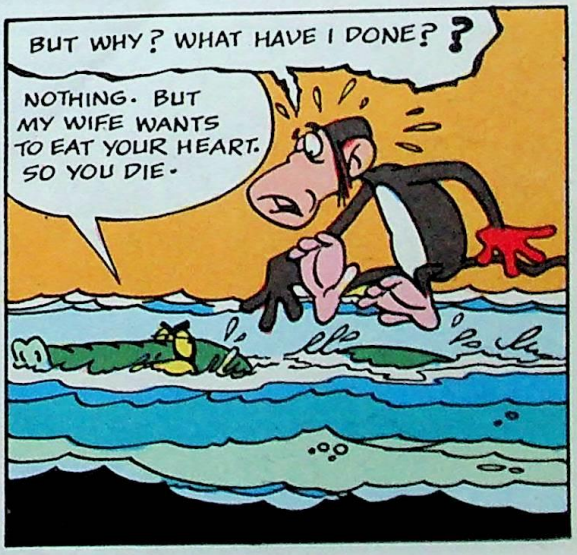

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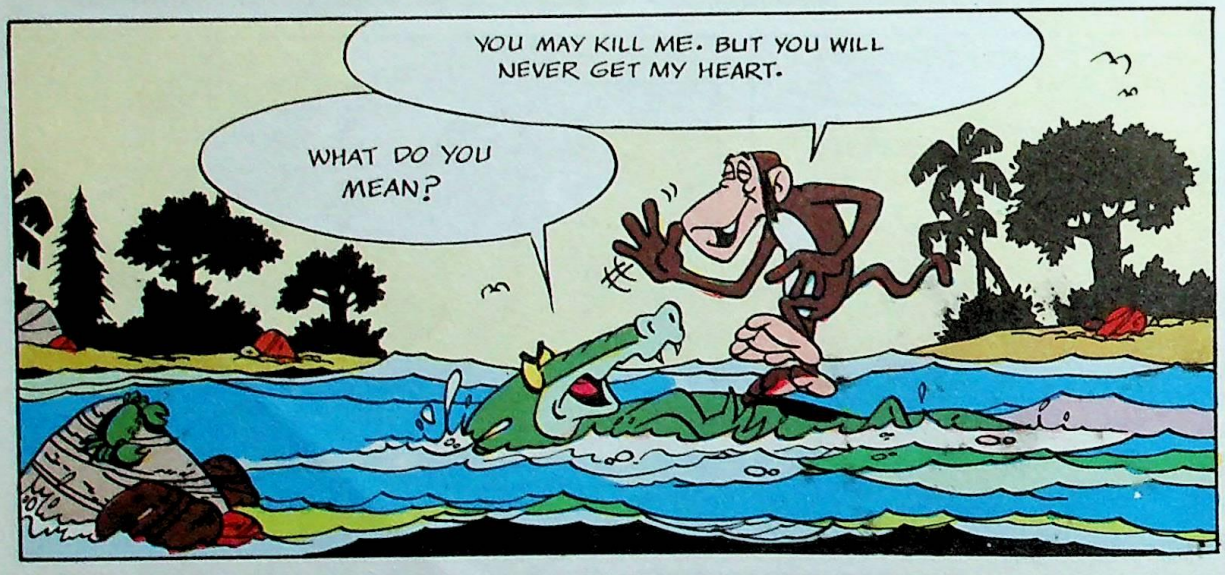

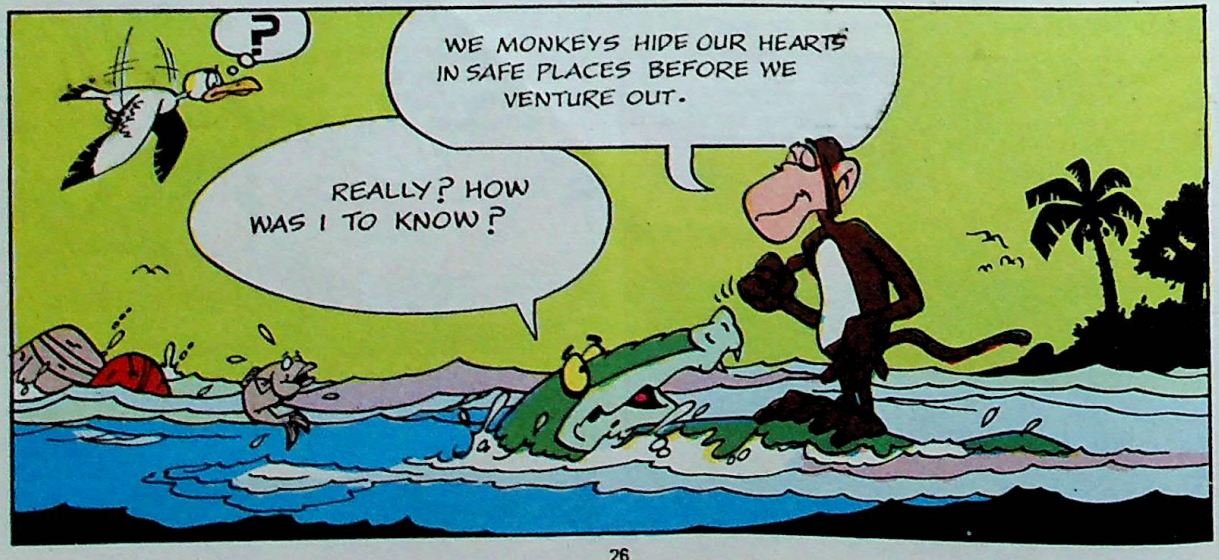

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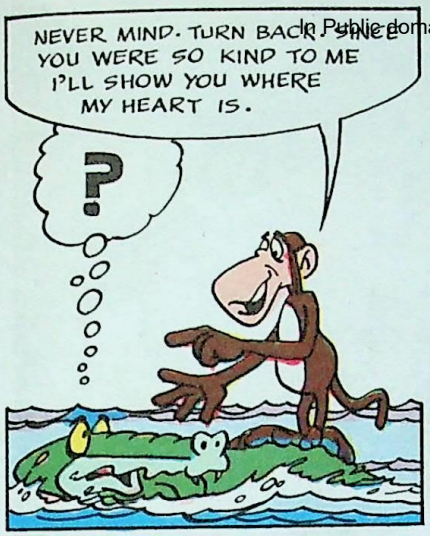

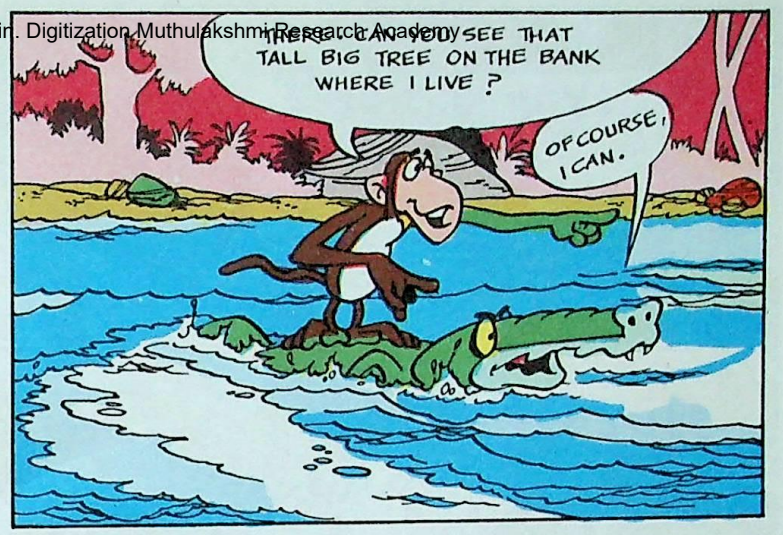

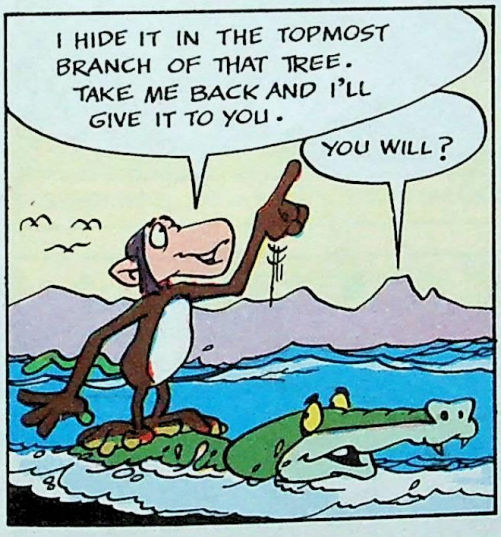

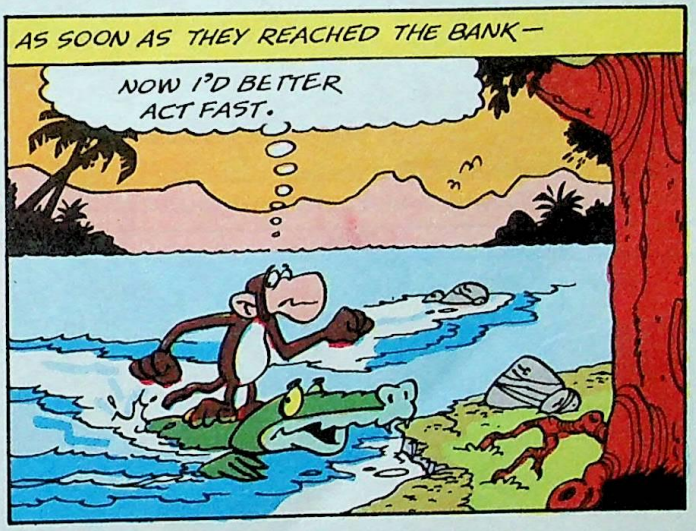

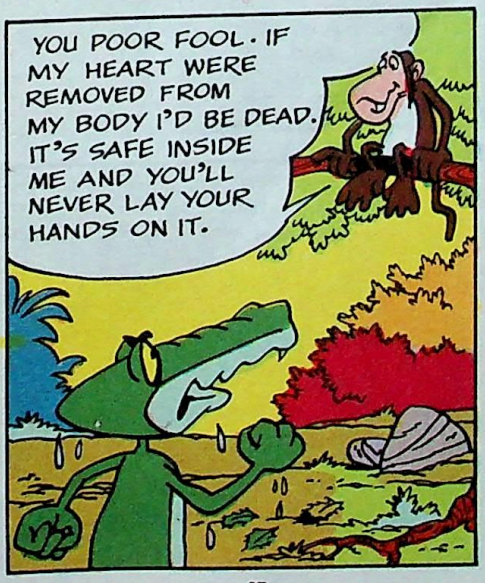

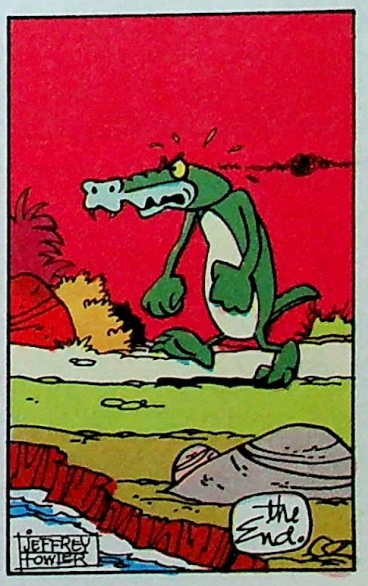

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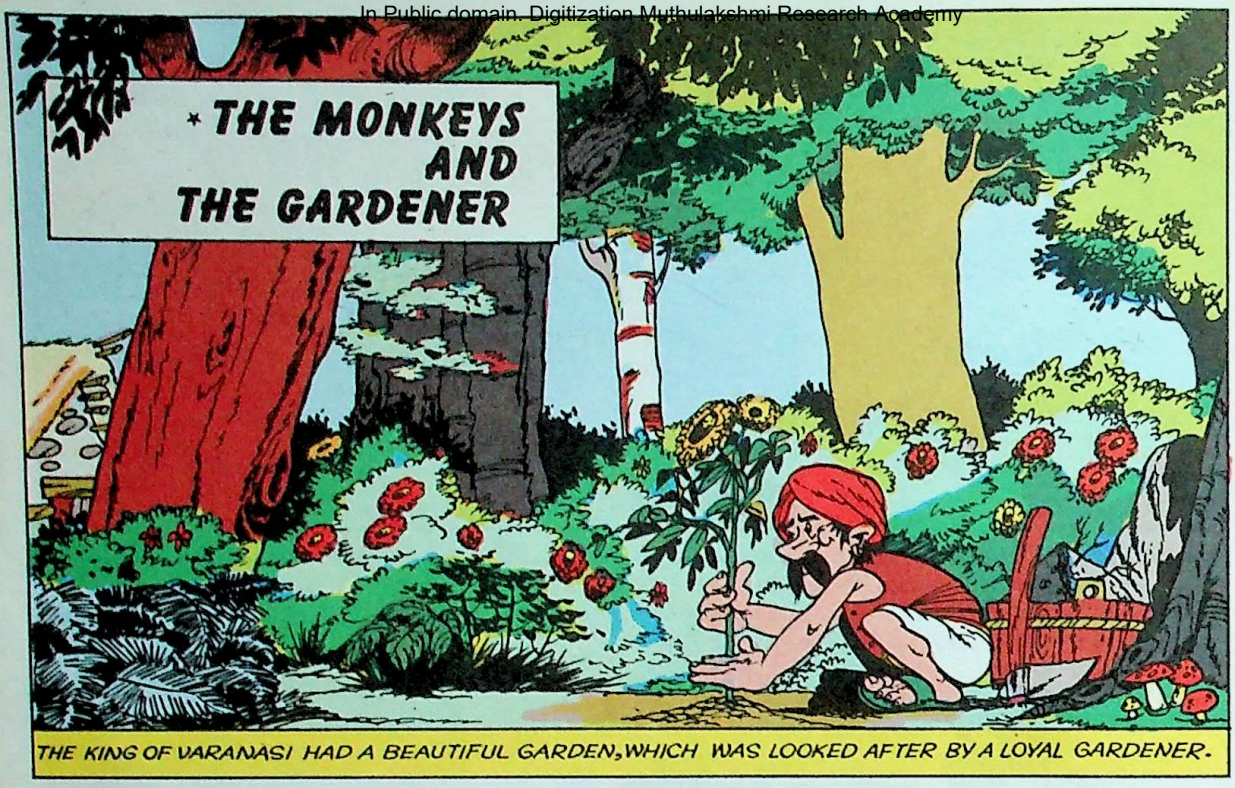

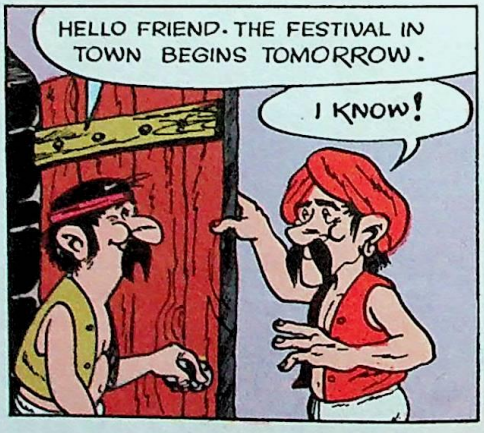

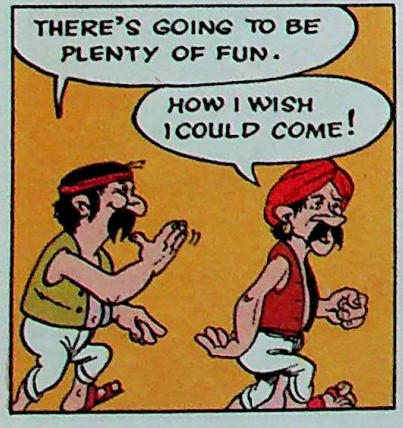

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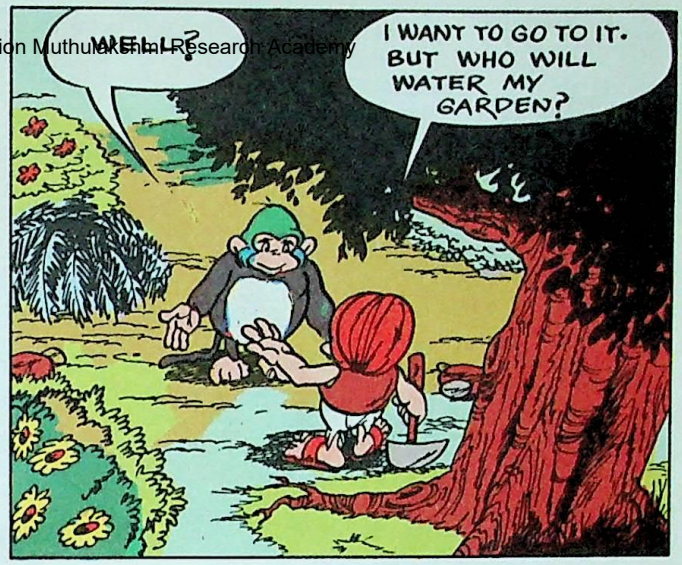

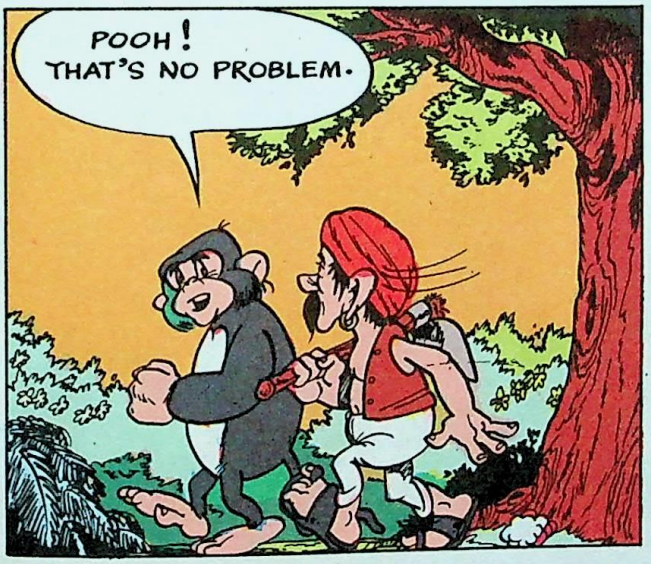

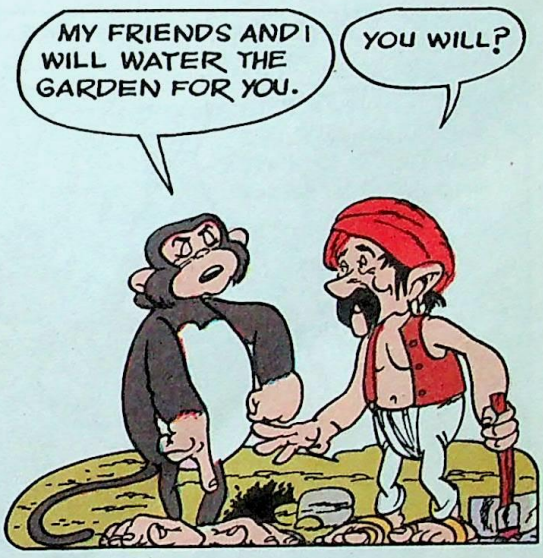

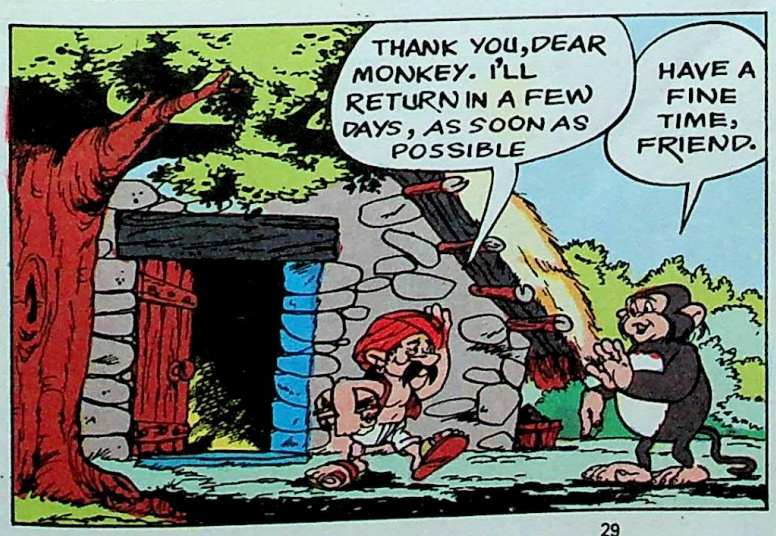

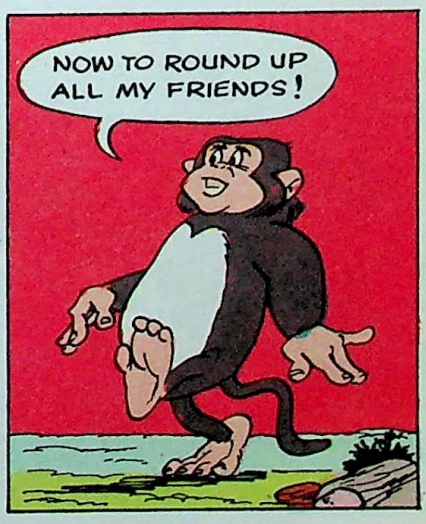

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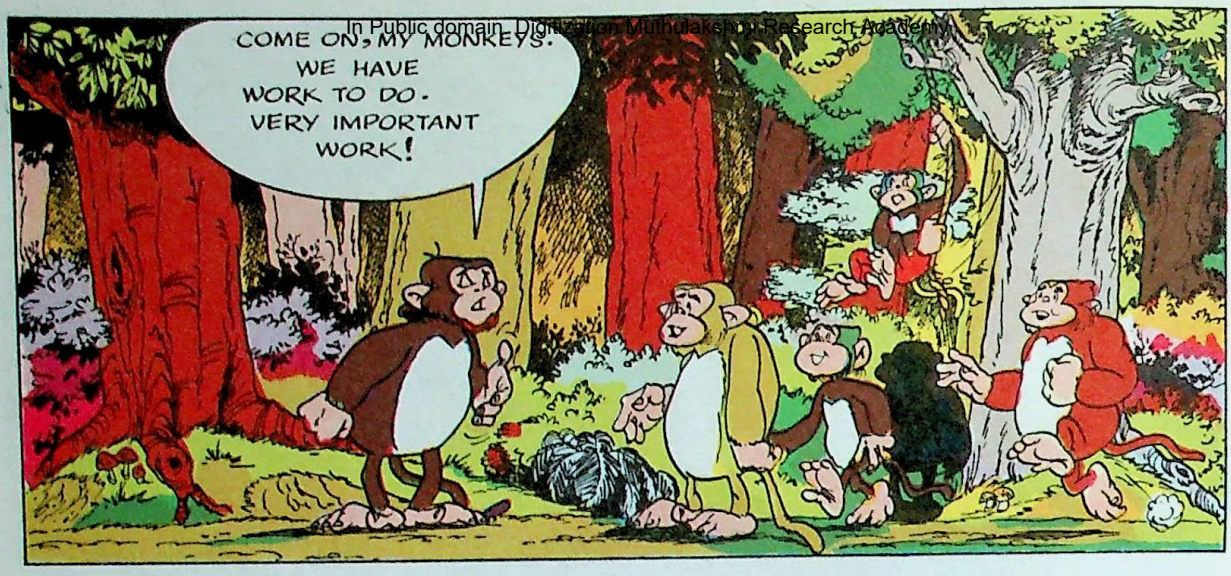

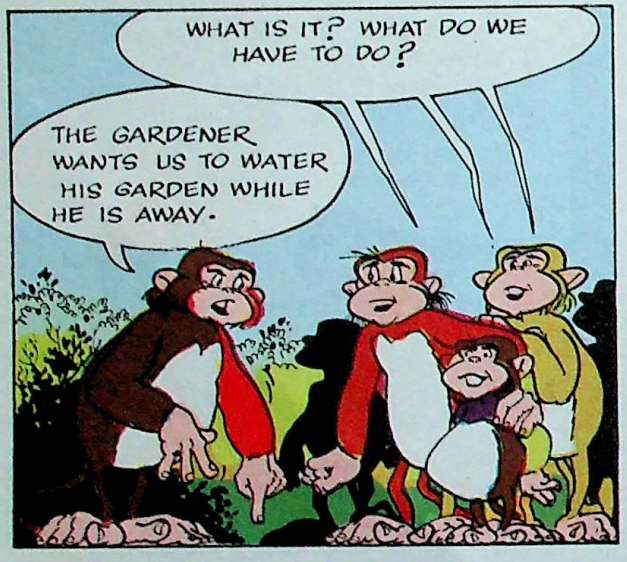

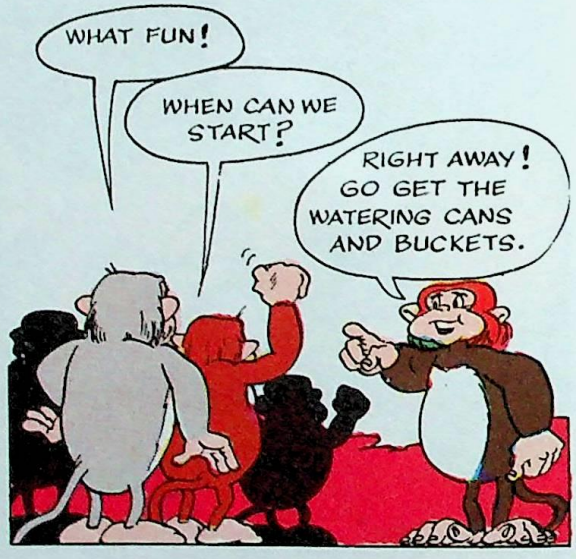

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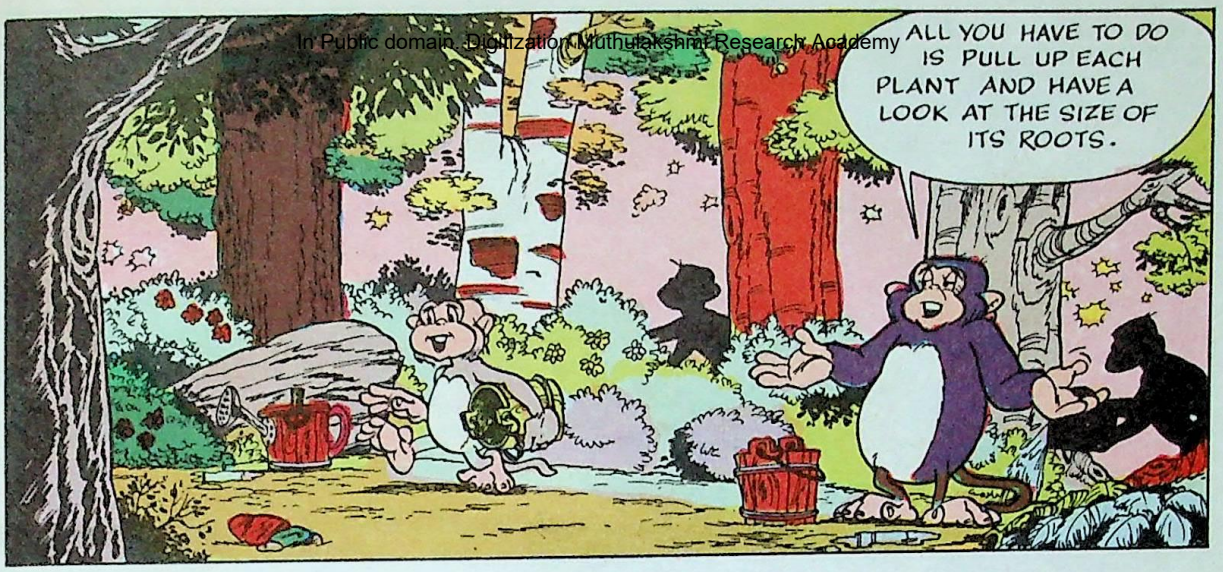

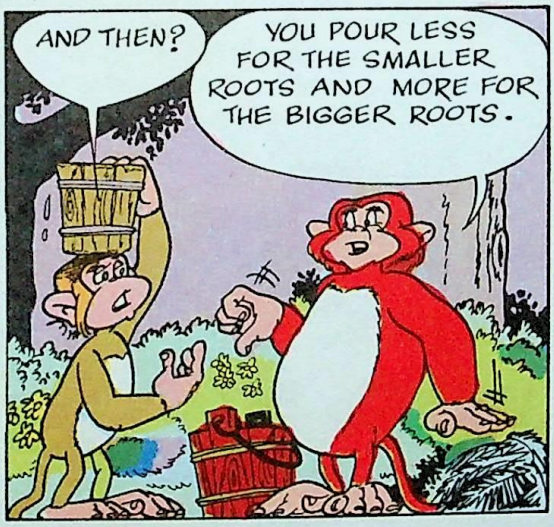

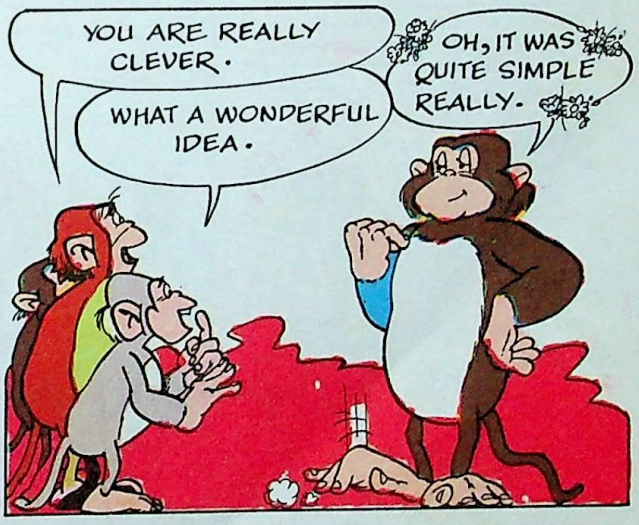

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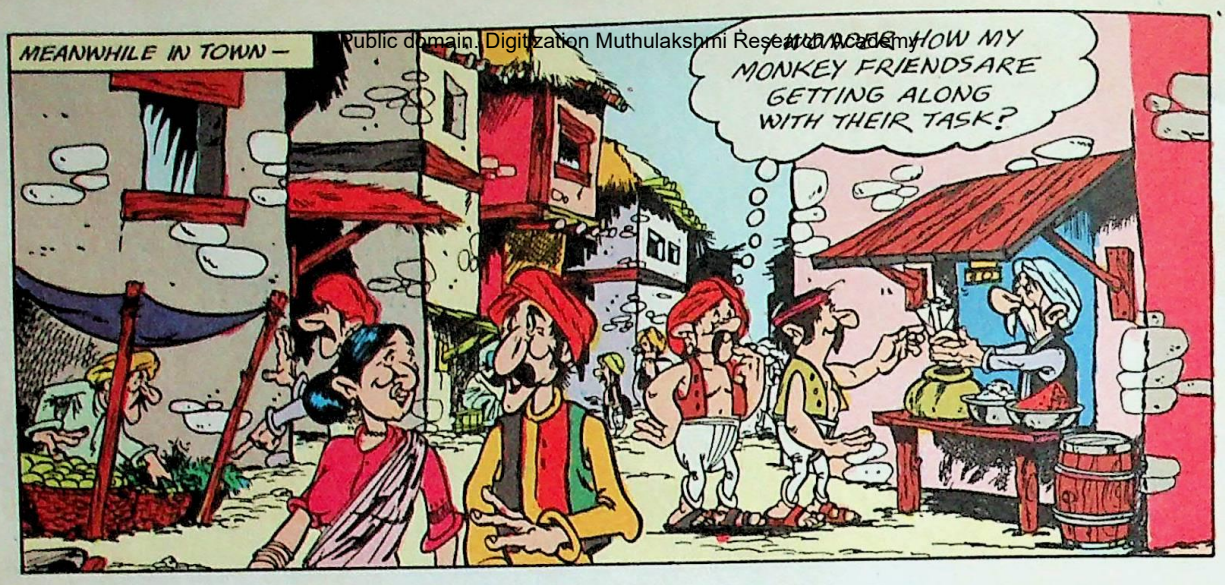

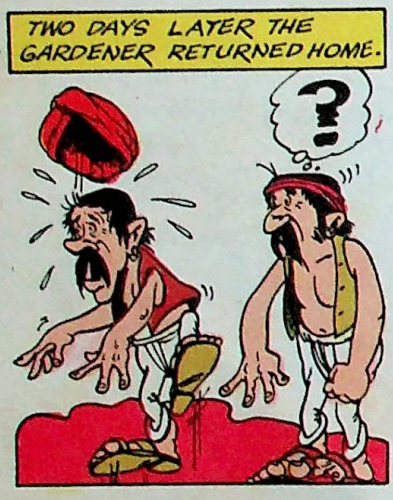

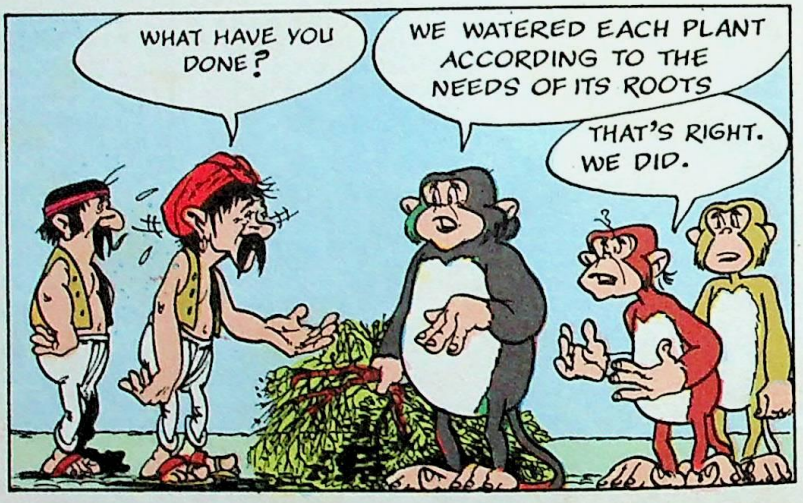

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